



Shojo Beat Manga

love*com



Story & Art by

Aya Nakahara

**Lovely ★
Complex**

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**The Place Where We Belong
WaT: The Teppei Koikey Story** 133

The Story So Far . . .

Risa and Ôtani are their class's lapsided comedy duo... and they've became a couple! Ôtani has been accepted into a teachers' college, while Risa plons to become a foshion stylist.

Meonwhile, life goes on. While visiting a tropical island far Mighty Sensei's wedding, Risa gets hat and bathered over sharing a hatel raam with Ôtani. But after seeing the...er...natural way Mighty and Jady express their lave, Risa leorns ta take it easy.

Now graduation is just around the corner, and Riso ond her friends hove all landed on the graduation committee. Charged with the task of coming up with a memorable farewell far the class, they take a video camera arround the schaal. They get same shats of the warm friendships Ôtani will leave behind on his basketball team and then move on to the rest of the class...

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely Complex* volumes 1-15, available at bookstores everywhere!!

**WONDERFUL
LOVELY ***

ACTION



**A TALE OF A TALL SHORT BOY.
THEY LIVE IN OSAKA AND ARE ENJOYING
THEMSELVES EVERY DAY.**

ATSUSHI OTANI

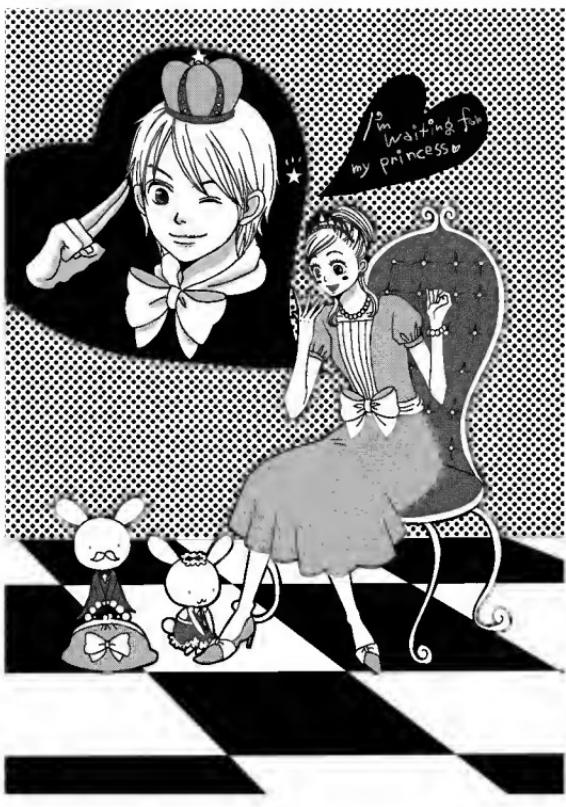
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COMPLEX**



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Aya Nakahara**

16



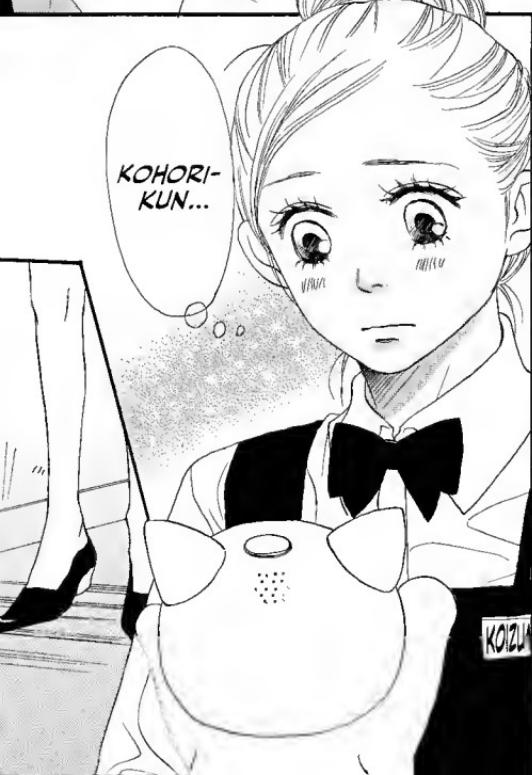


CHAPTER 60

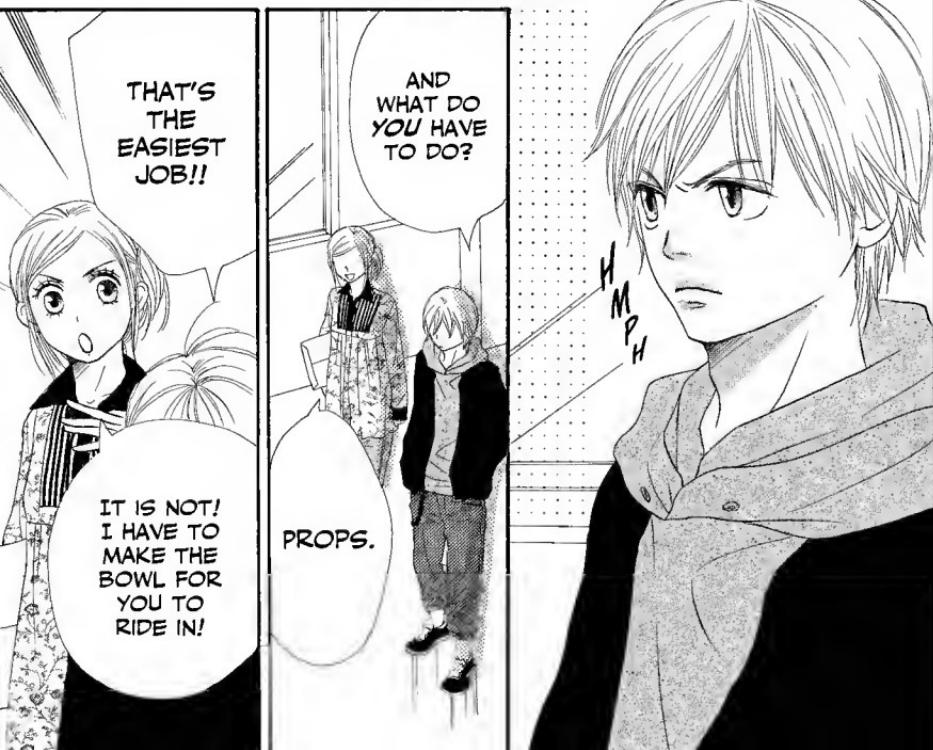


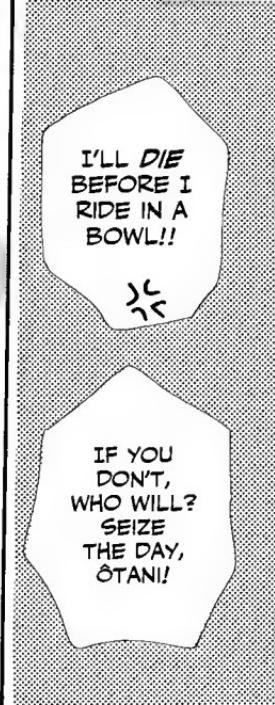


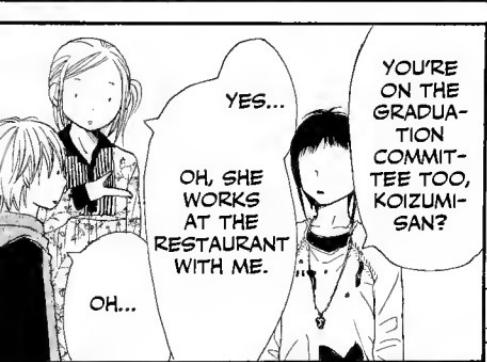


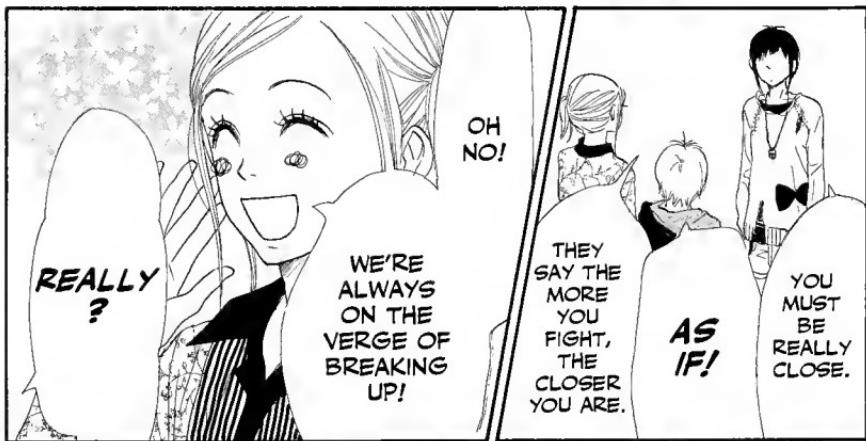
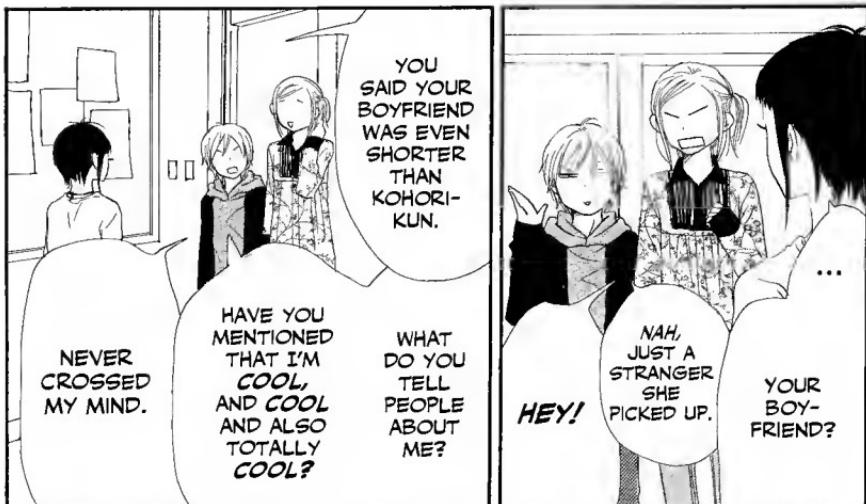






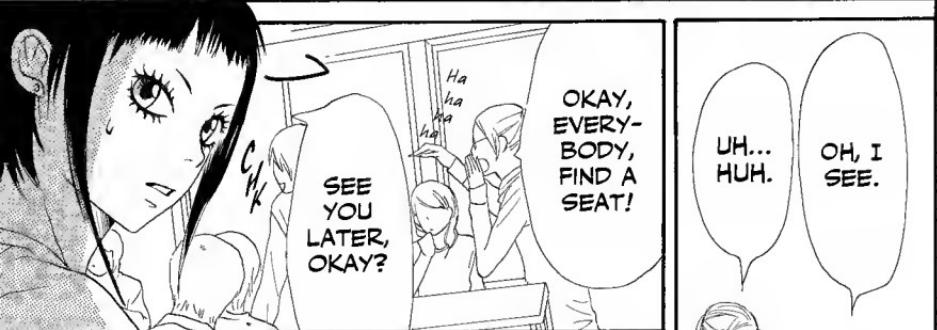








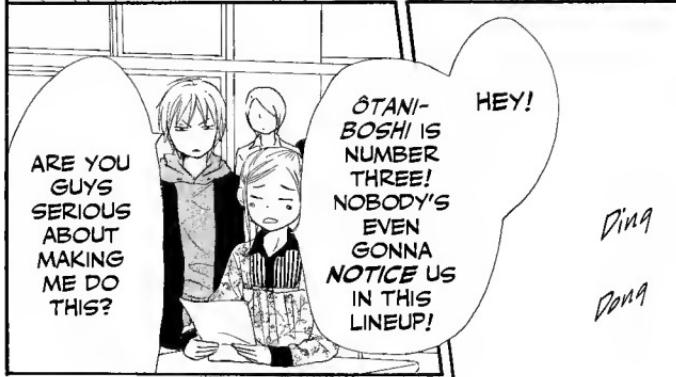
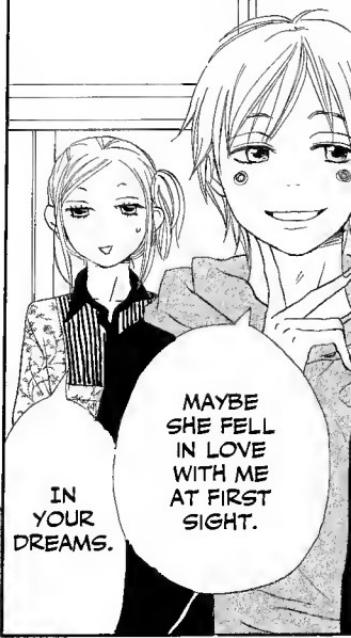
HUH?



UH...
HUH.

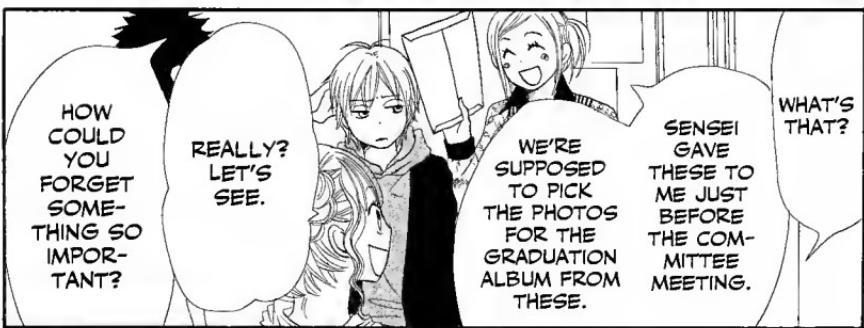
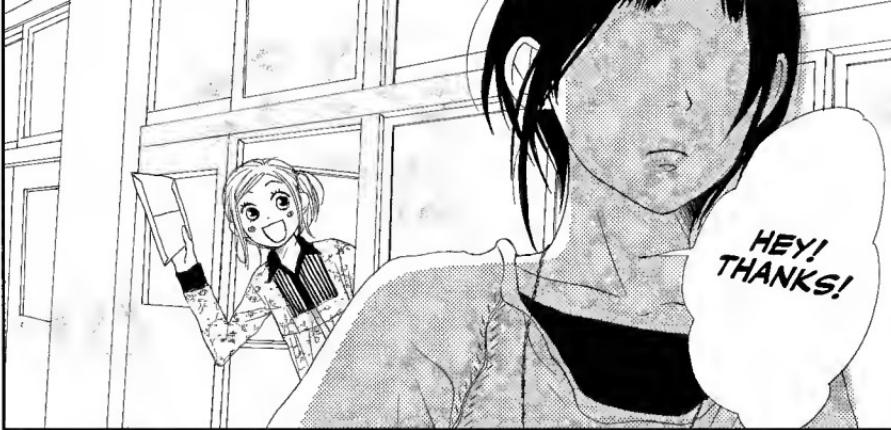
OH, I
SEE.

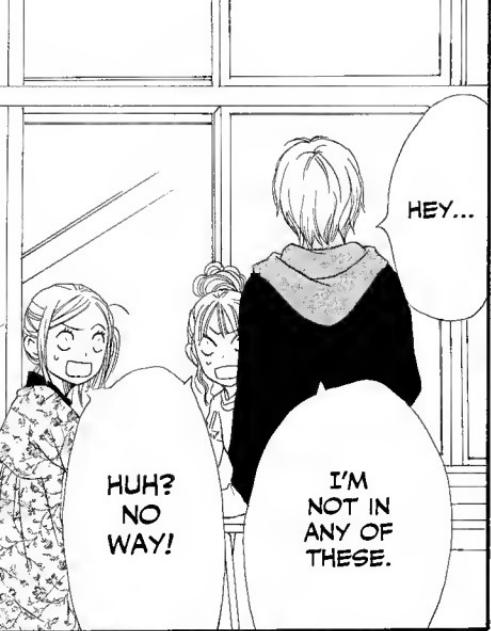


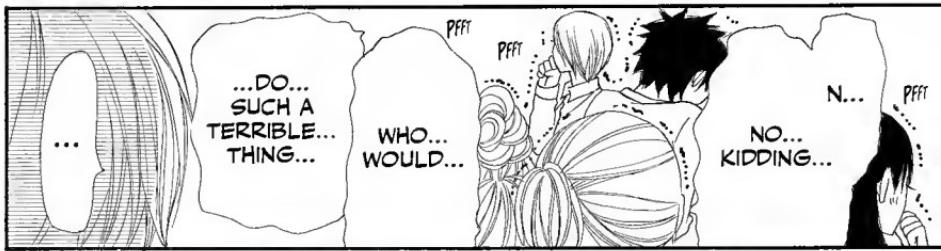


SHIIING





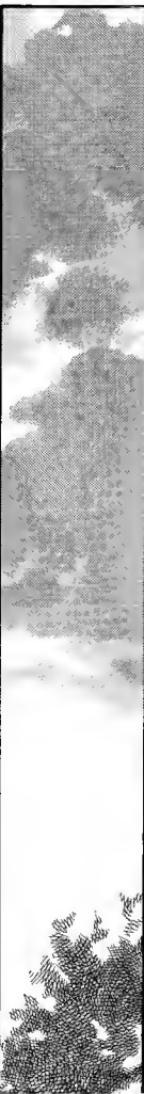


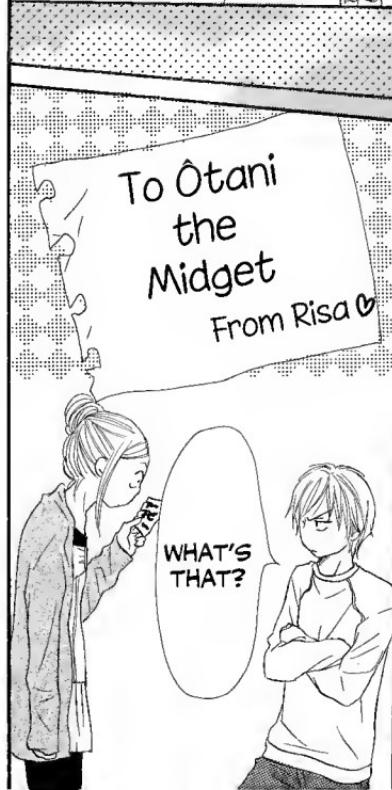
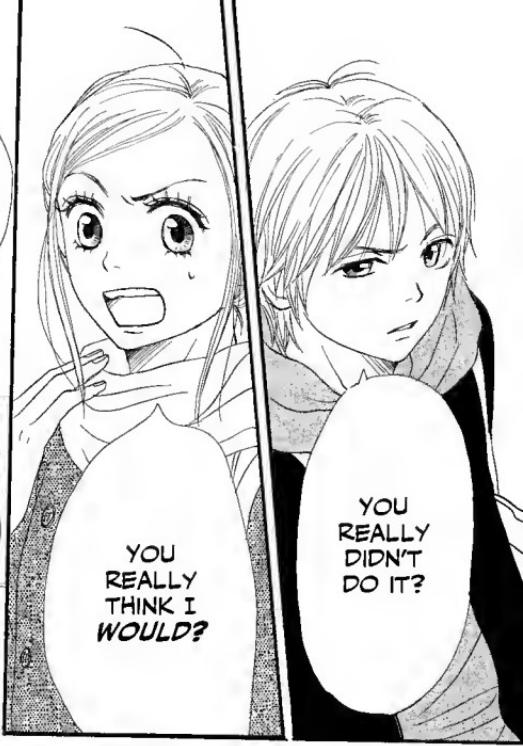




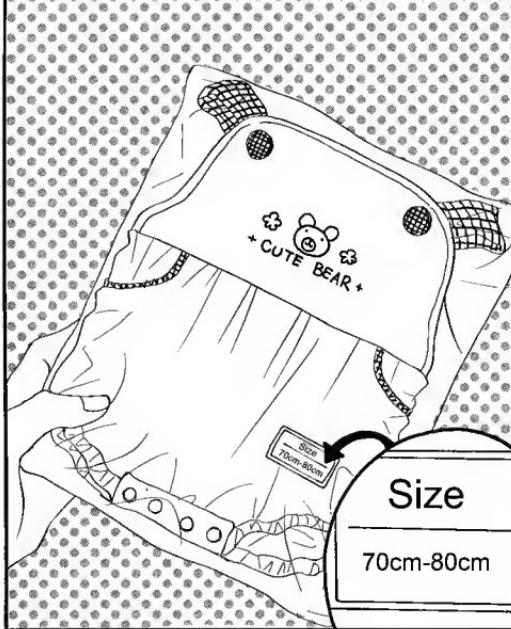
I TOLD
YOU IT
WASN'T
ME!! I
SWEAR!!

SHOW
ME THE
PHOTOS
YOU'VE
HIDDEN!!











WHOOPS!

I'M
SOOO
SORRY!!

WHY
IS THIS
HAPPEN-
ING?

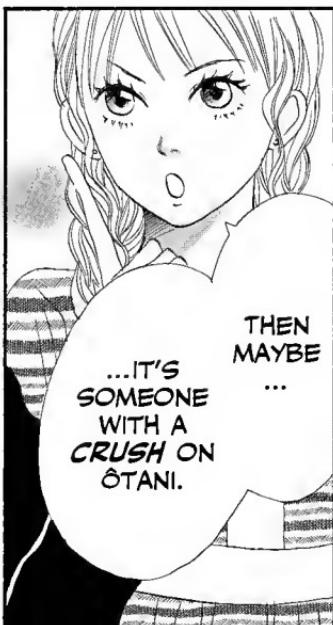
WHAT?

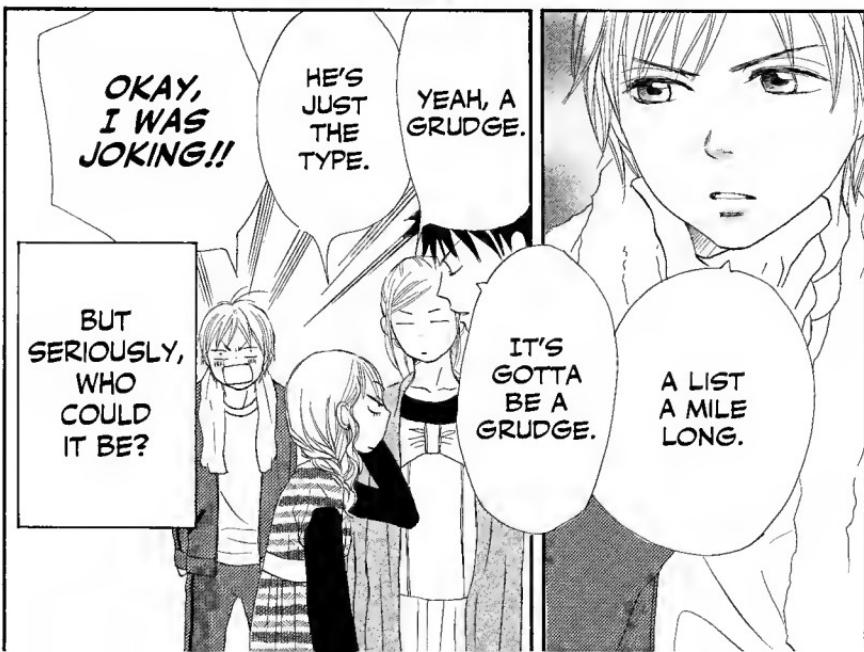
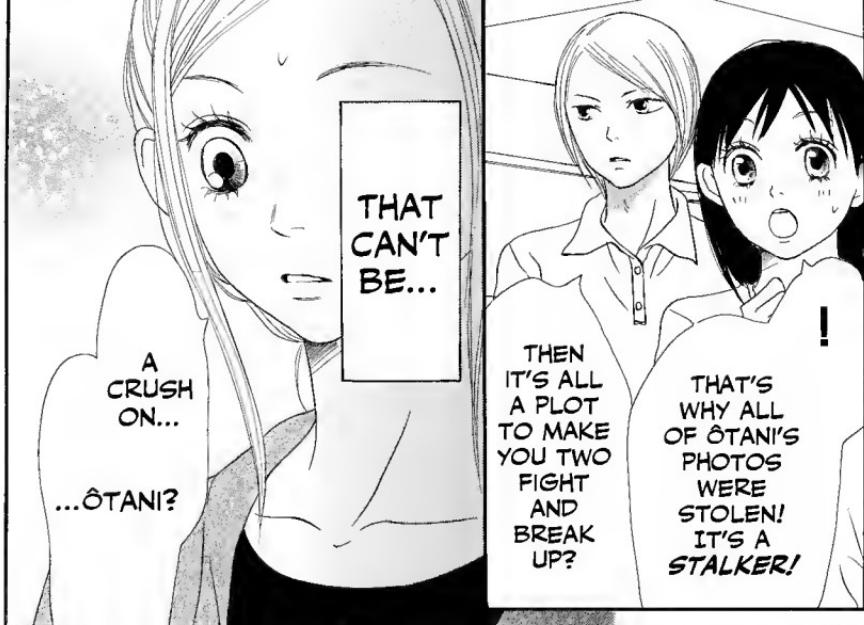
I SWEAR
SOMEBODY
SHOVED
ME FROM
BEHIND.

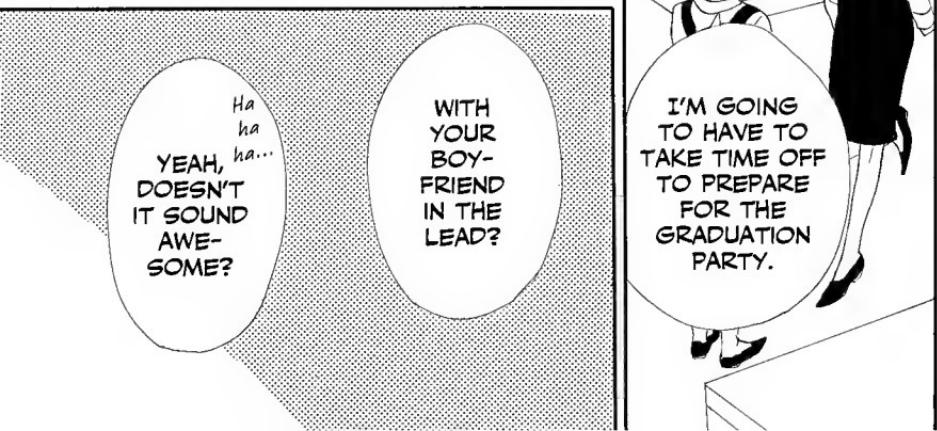
IF YOU'RE
PISSED OFF
ABOUT SOME-
THING, COME
ON OUT AND
SAY IT!!

HUH?
IT'S
NOT
LIKE
THAT!

THEN
WHAT'S
YOUR
PROBLEM
?

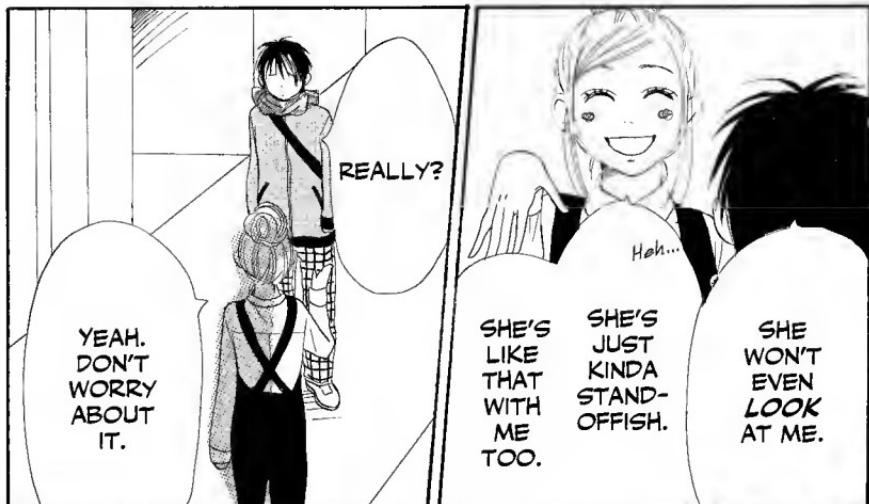














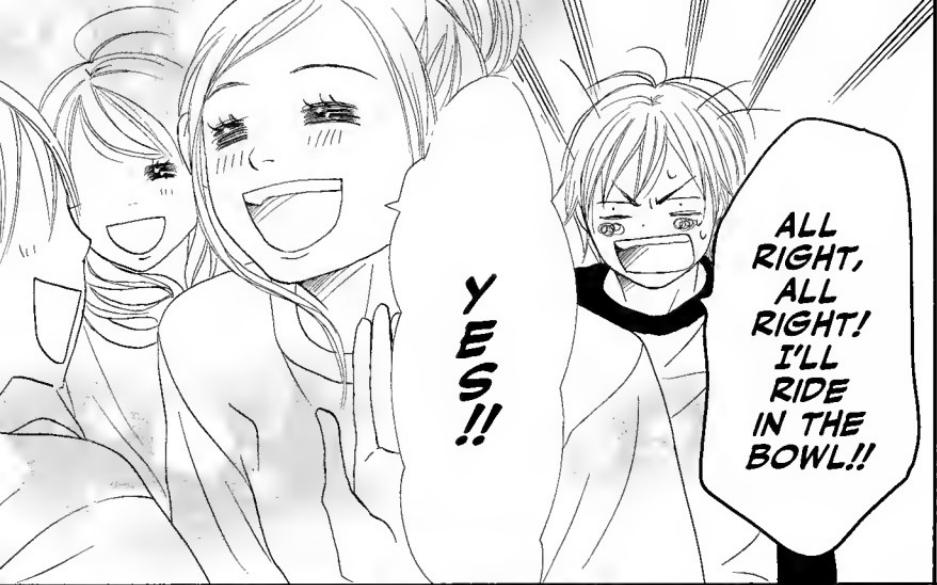
I'M GOING
TO MAKE
SURE OUR
PLAY IS A
SUCCESS!!

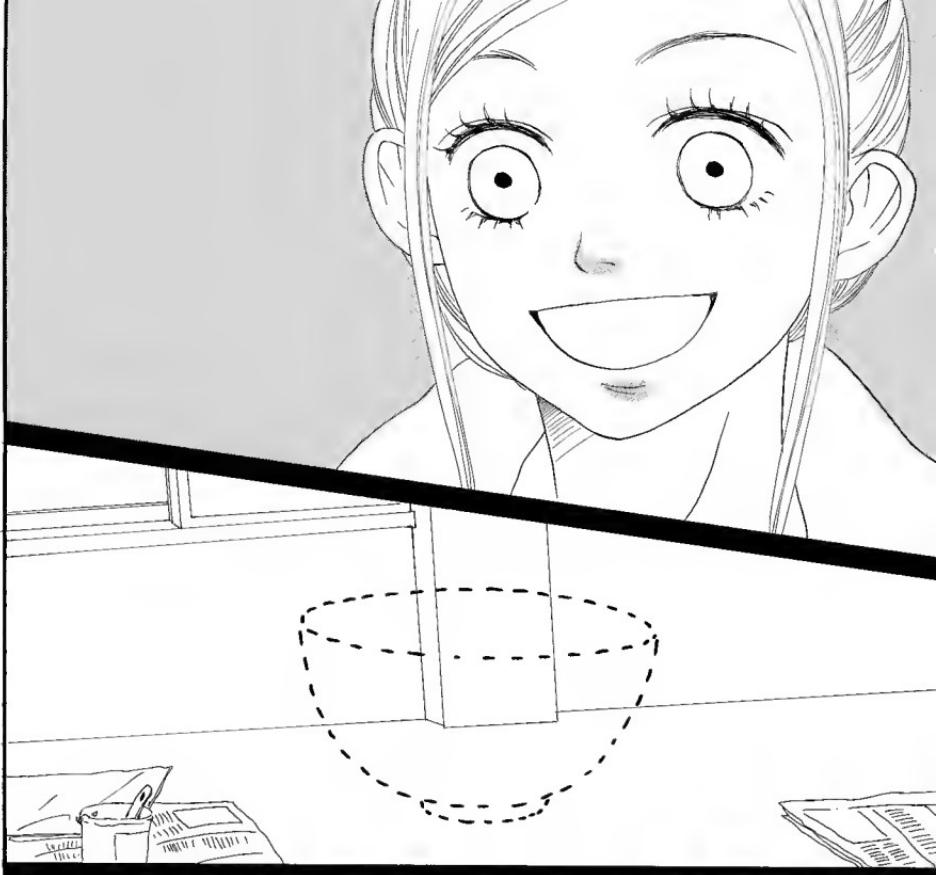
I'VE BEEN
THINKING IT
OVER, BUT I
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO
CATCH THAT
PRANKSTER.

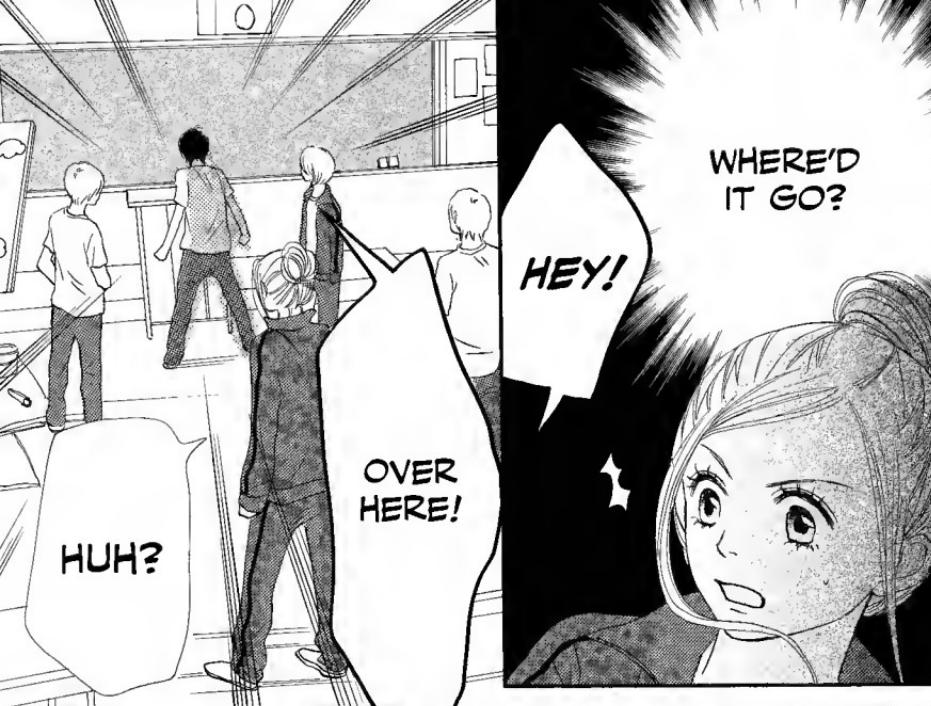
GUESS
I'D BETTER
JUST
CONCENTRATE
ON THE
GRADUATION
PARTY.

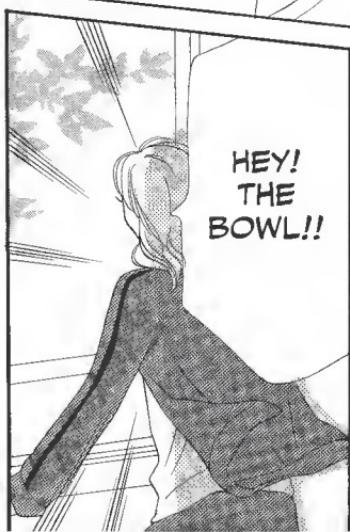
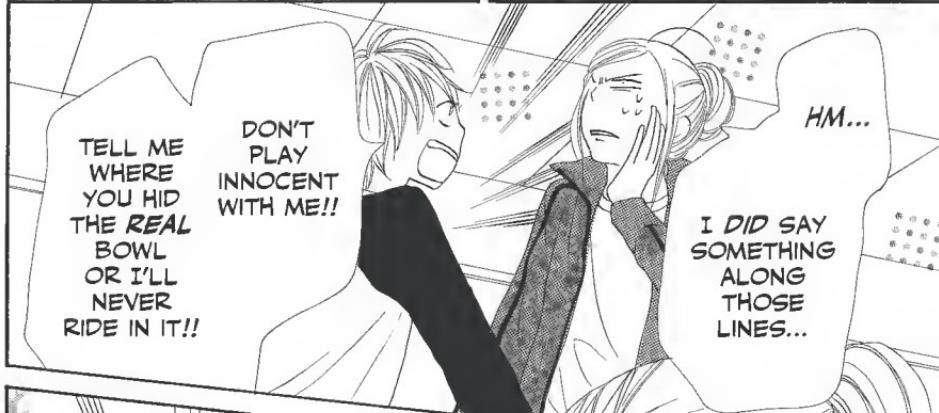












HUH?

THE
BOWL'S
WALKING
OFF TO THE
INCINERATOR!!

NO
WAY!

HEY,
ISN'T
THAT...

ABE-SAN?

BUT
WHY?

FOR OTANI







...WITH
THIS
LOSER
SO YOU
CAN
GO OUT
WITH
KOHORI-
SAN.

I
WANT
YOU TO
BREAK
UP...

I
SEE,
ABE-
SAN.

YOU
REALLY
CARE
FOR
ÔTANI.

WHY'D
YOU
HAVE TO
BRING
HIM UP?
...

K...
KOHORI-
KUN?

YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
CAN MAKE
HIM HAPPY.

KOHORI-
SAN
LIKES
YOU,
KOIZUMI-
SAN.

UM,
WHAT?

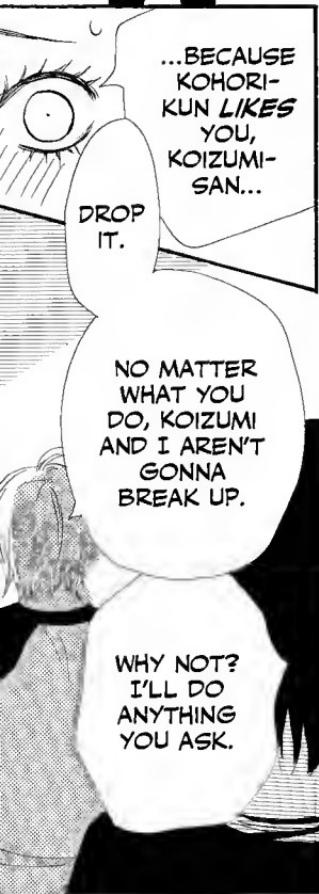


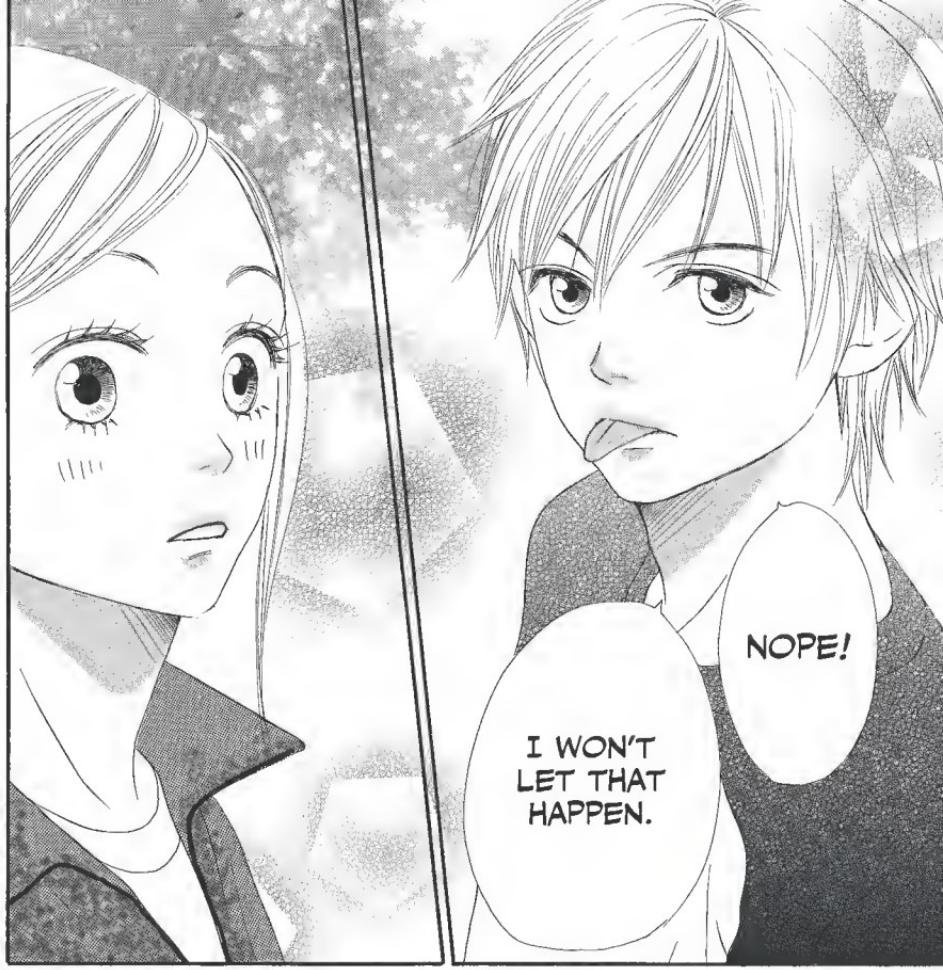
ABE-
SAN...
COULD
IT BE...

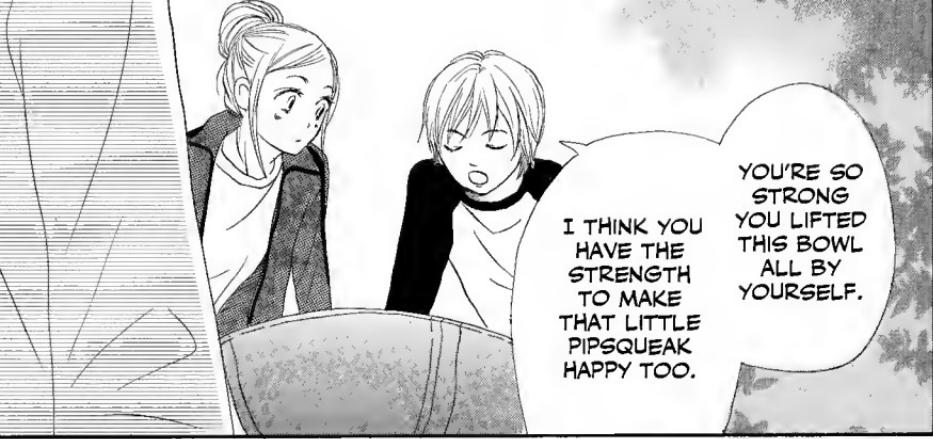


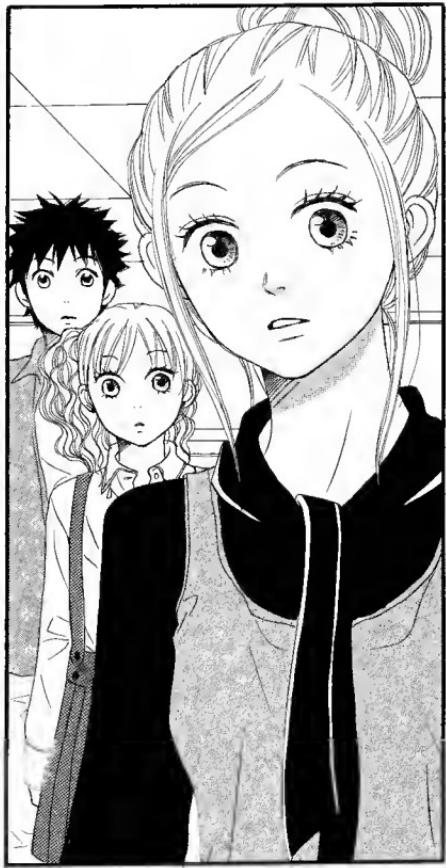
SO...

HUH?
HANG
ON!



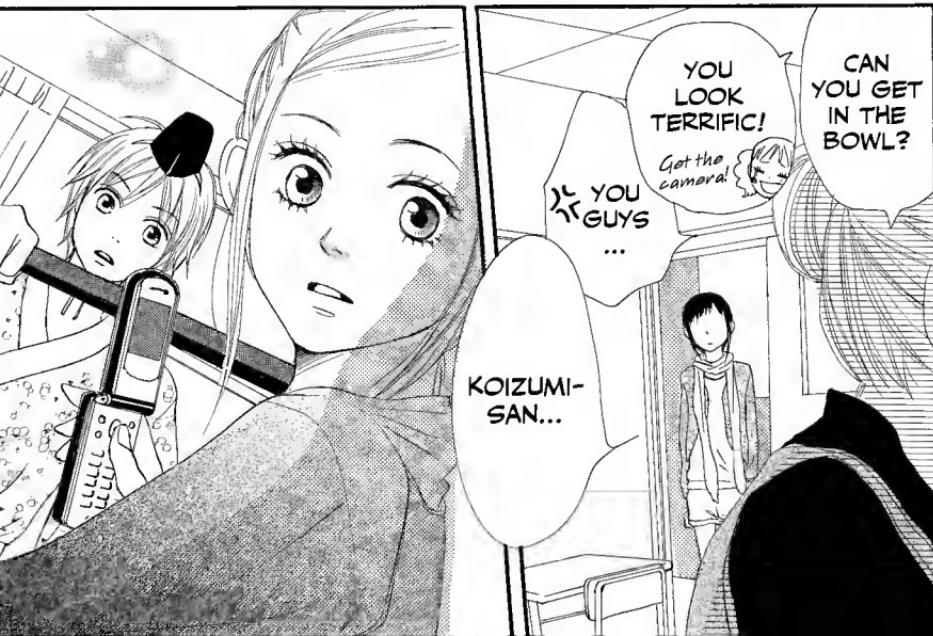
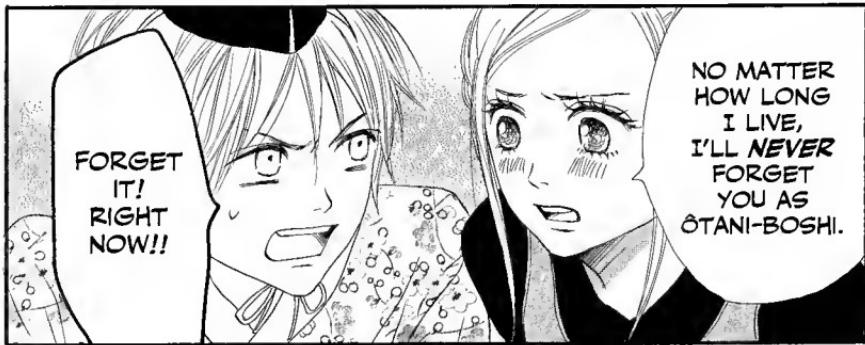






CHAPTER 61







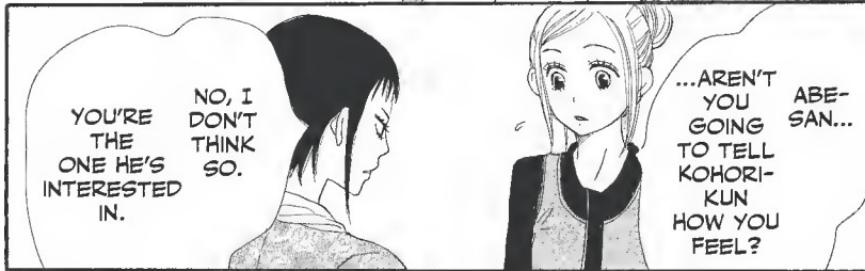
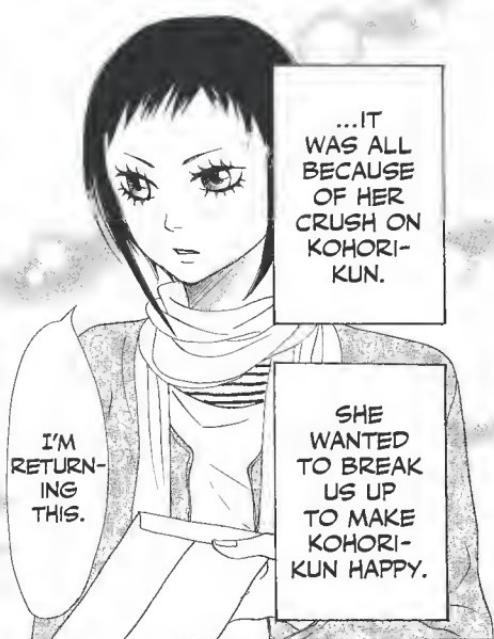
ABE-SAN
WAS THE
ONE WHO
PULLED
THOSE
MEAN
PRANKS.

ABE-SAN...

peep chirp chirp

BUT...



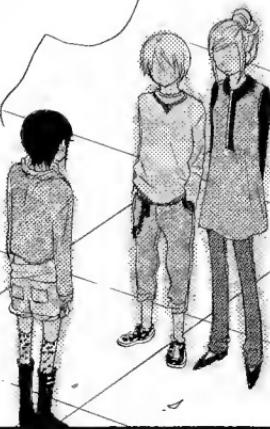




...WATCHING
ABE-SAN
BROUGHT
BACK
MEMORIES
...

I
GUESS
...

OKAY.



OR THE
WAY WE
FOUGHT
LIKE
CATS AND
DOGS.

LIKE THE
DIFFER-
ENCE
IN OUR
HEIGHT.

...OF
THE DAYS
WHEN
I FIRST
FELL FOR
ÔTANI.

HEH...

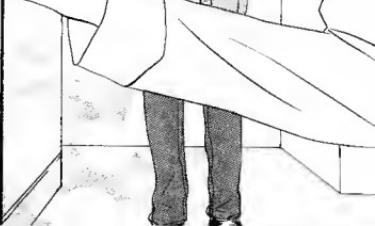
OR HOW
DIFFERENT
I WAS
FROM
HIS EX.

MAN,
I USED
TO FREAK
OUT OVER
EVERY
LITTLE
THING.

HUH?





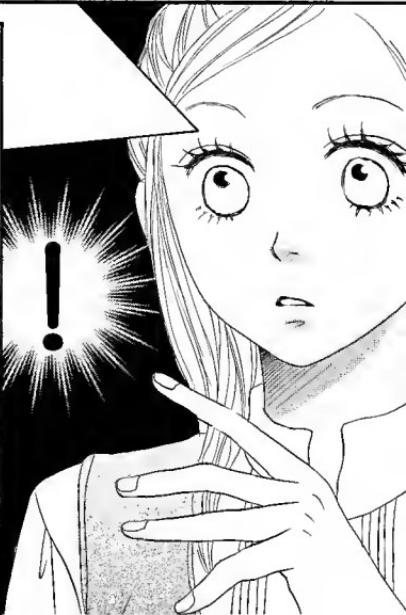


GO
IT,
ABE-
SAN!



PRETTY
INCRED-
IBLE,
HUUH?







FOR
WHATEVER
CRAZY
REASON,
HE'S GOT
A CRUSH
ON YOU.

YOU
CAN'T
BE THE
ONE TO
INVITE
THAT
TWERP.



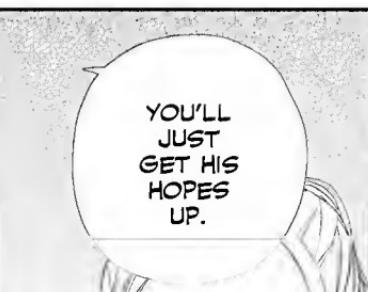
IT'S THE
PERFECT
WAY TO
BRING
THESE TWO
TOGETHER!

DO YOU
EVER
THINK?



BUT I
DON'T
THINK
ABE-SAN
WILL
INVITE
HIM...

OH...



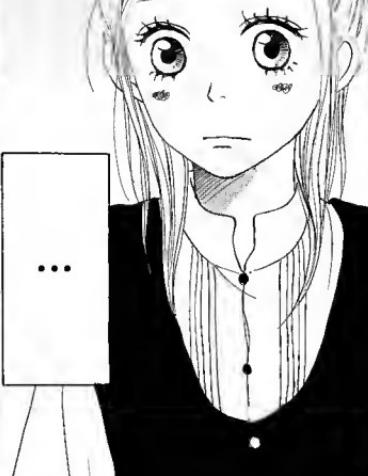
YOU'LL
JUST
GET HIS
HOPES
UP.



HUH?

FINE.

I'LL
INVITE
KOHORI.



...



...I DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT HIM
PUTTING
THE MOVES
ON YOU.

IF THE
SHRIMP
FALLS
FOR
ABE-
SAN...



TO BE
HONEST,
I'D LIKE
TO SEE
THEM
HOOK UP
TOO.

REALLY?
WHY?



IS HE
WORKING
TODAY?

How
sweet.



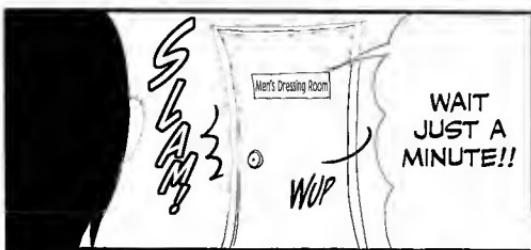
JUST A
LITTLE!
HARDLY
AT ALL!

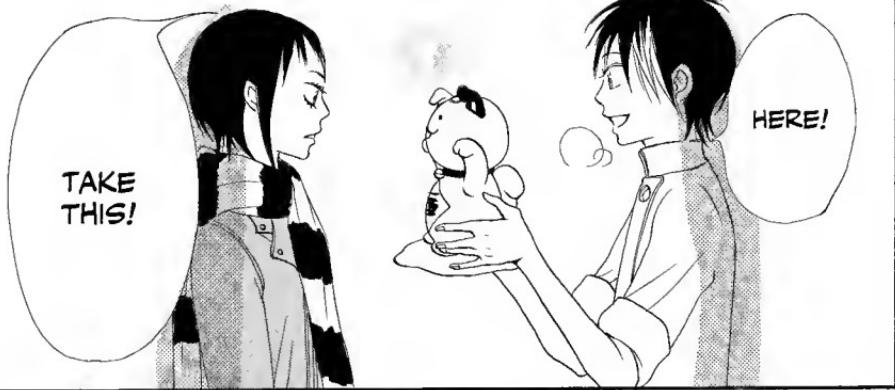
AWW,
DO YOU
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT?



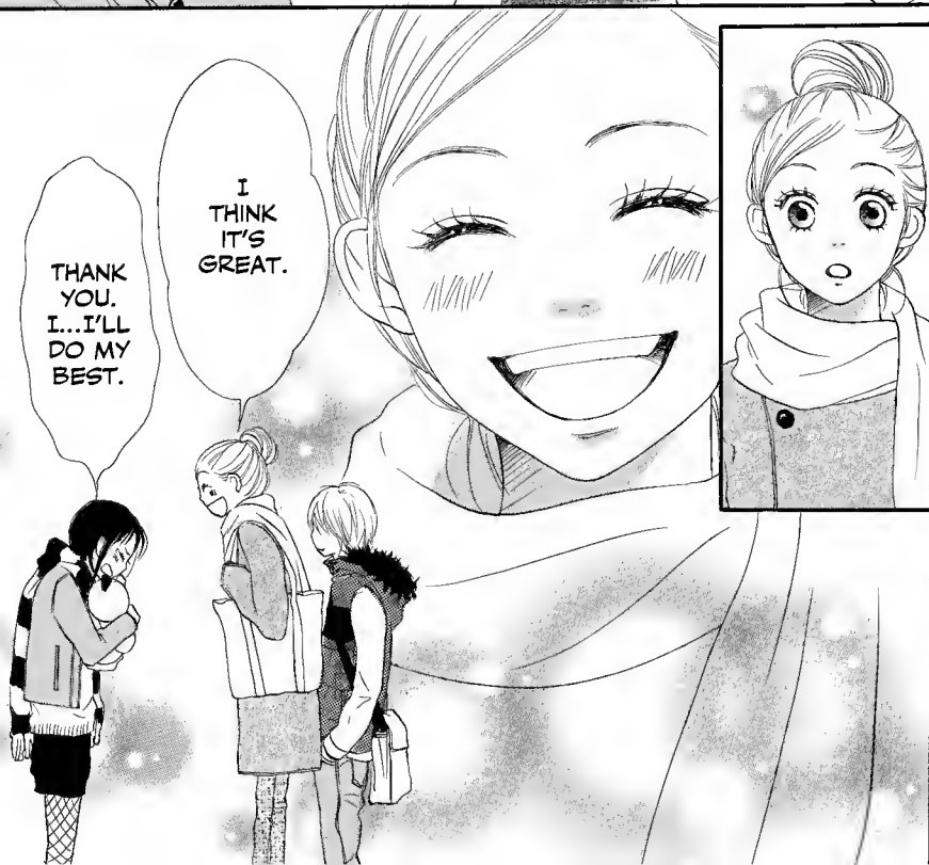












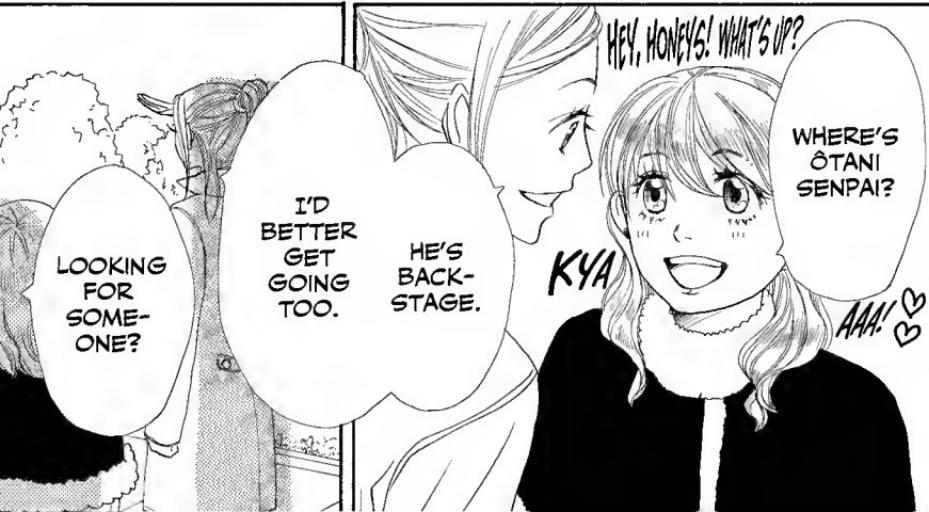
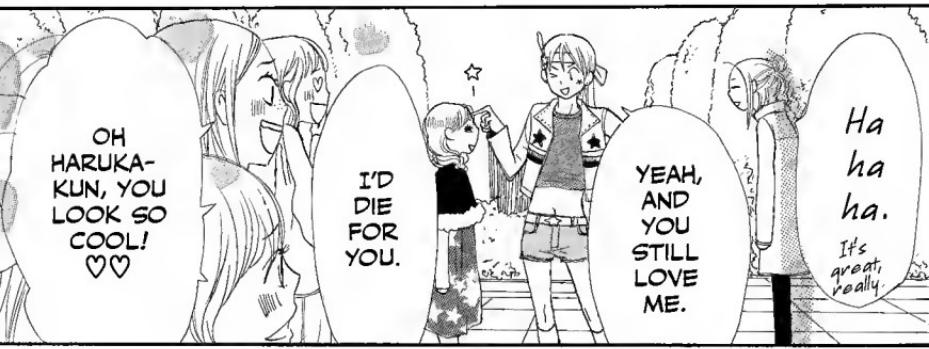


NEVER
SAY IT'S
HOPE-
LESS.
NEVER
GIVE UP.

GOOD
LUCK.

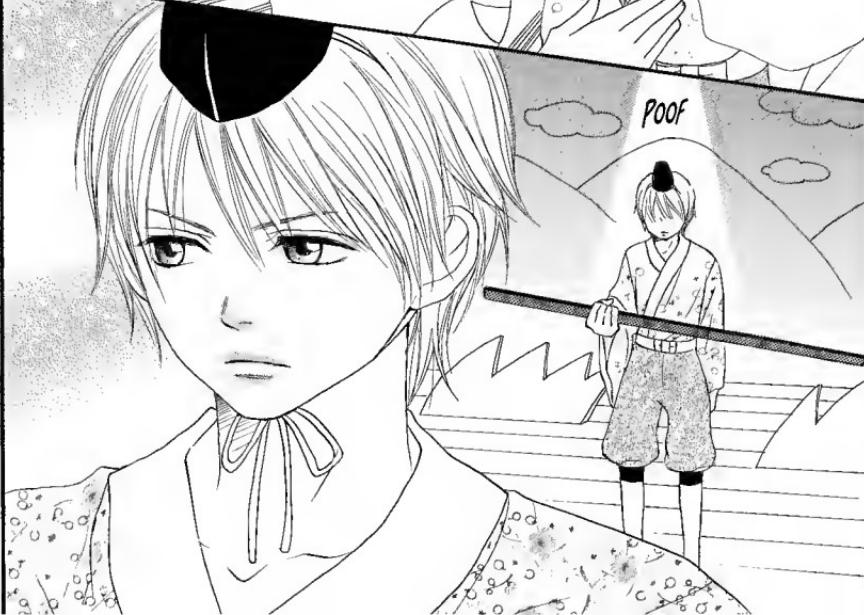
KOIZUMI
SENPAI!

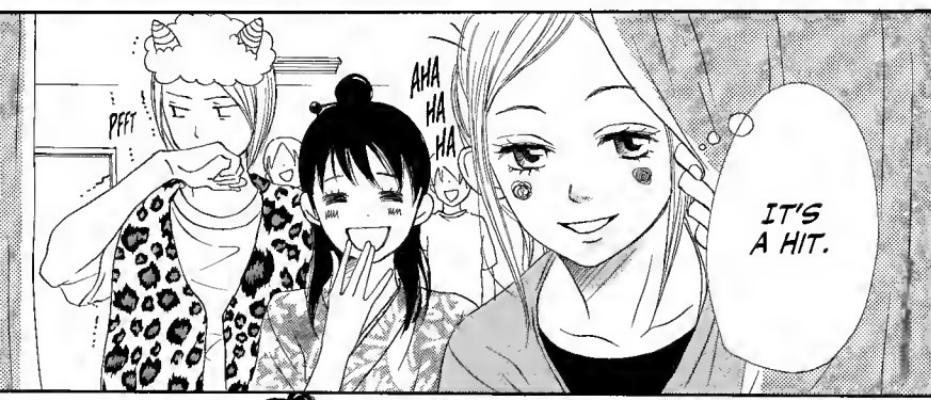
RISA!











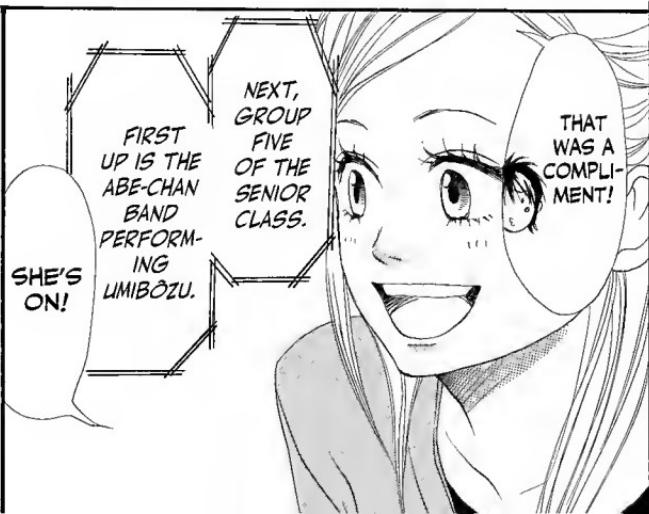




Hi, it's me, Nakahara.
Hey...volume 1b!
If you've got this
one, you've got
the ending!
But they're letting
me do another
volume with bonus
stories, so please
check that out too.
I'm drawing the
bonus stuff now.
This long series is
finally nearing its
end! I guess I should
be reminiscing about
everything that
happened to me...
But nothing comes
to mind. Okay,
I'll do it in volume 17!

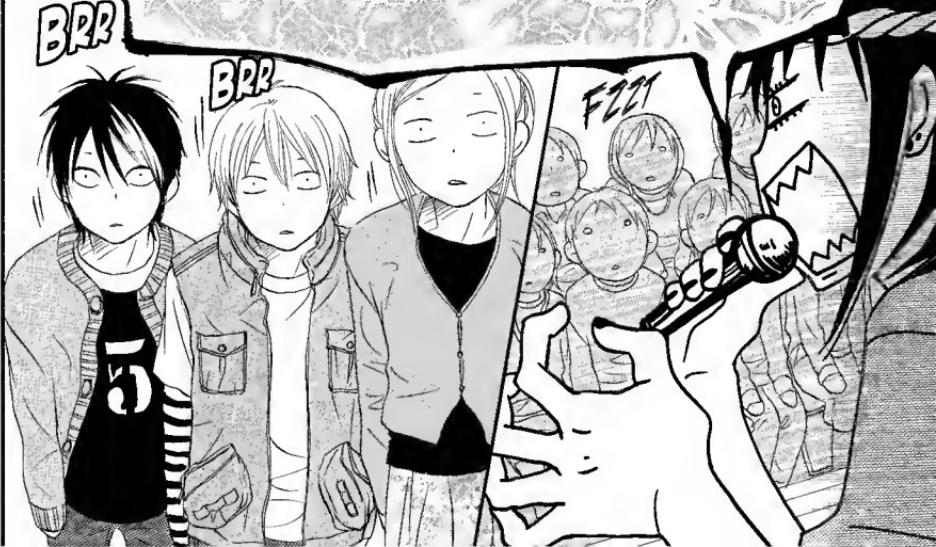
So...Love*Com
ran for five years.
For the first time
in five years, I don't
have a deadline
coming up. I'm not
feeling well. I look
so gaunt. When I
was drawing manga,
I was never sick!

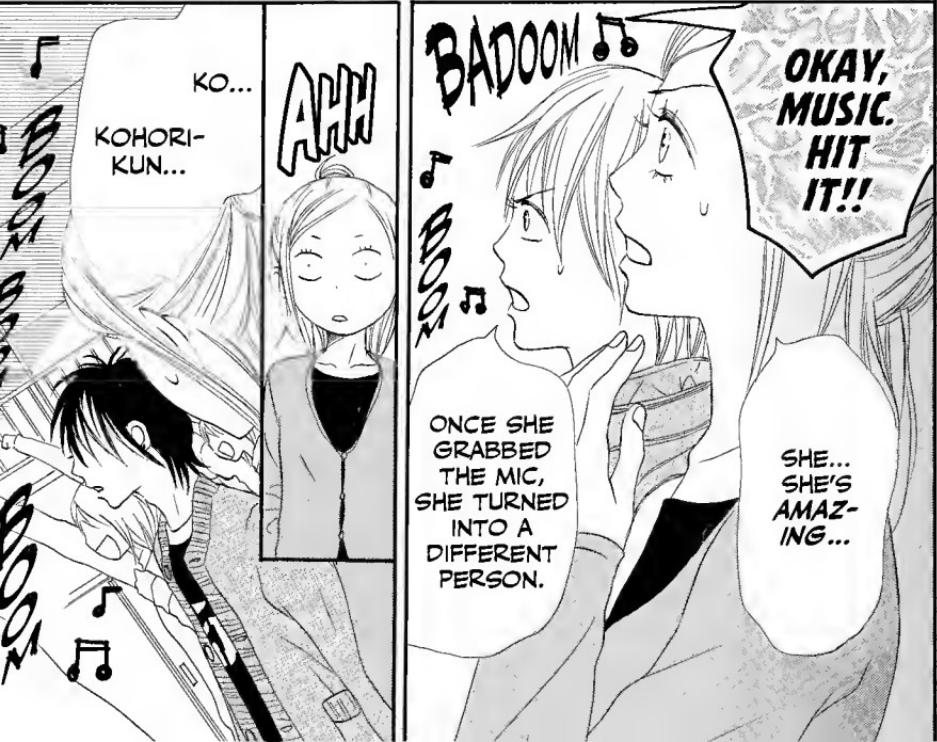
To be continued...





**HEY, WHY'RE Y'ALL SITTING
DOWN? STAND UP AND ROCK!!**







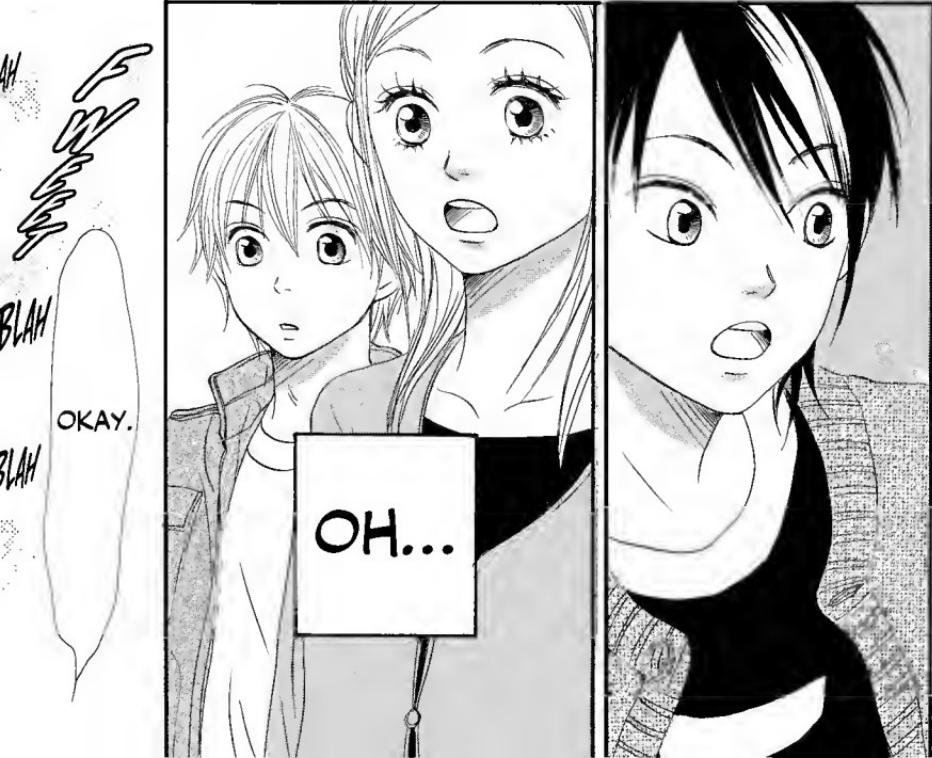
...OUT.



YOW.









WOW!

WHAT A
RELIEF.

WAY
TO GO,
ABE-
SAN!

NEVER
SAY
DIE.

I...
...TOMOR-
ROW'S
BOUND
TO BE A
WHOLE
NEW DAY.

IF YOU
HAVE THE
COURAGE
TO GO
FOR IT...

...LOVE
YOU,
ÔTANI.

SORRY.

...AND
KEEP
MOVING
FORWARD
WITH
YOUR
CHIN HELD
HIGH.

...AND
ANOTHER
...

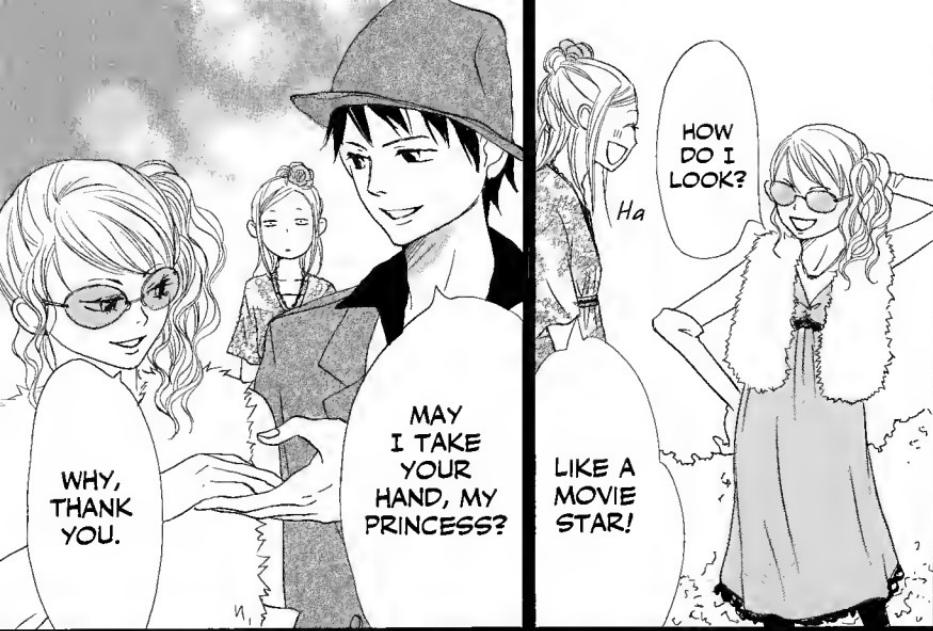
BUT IF
THINGS
DON'T
WORK
OUT, JUST
TAKE A
STEP UP...

ONE DAY
SOME-
THING
GOOD IS
BOUND
TO
HAPPEN.

OKAY!

THE
DANCING'S
GONNA
START!

HURRY!



HERE!

ALL
RIGHT,
ALL
RIGHT!

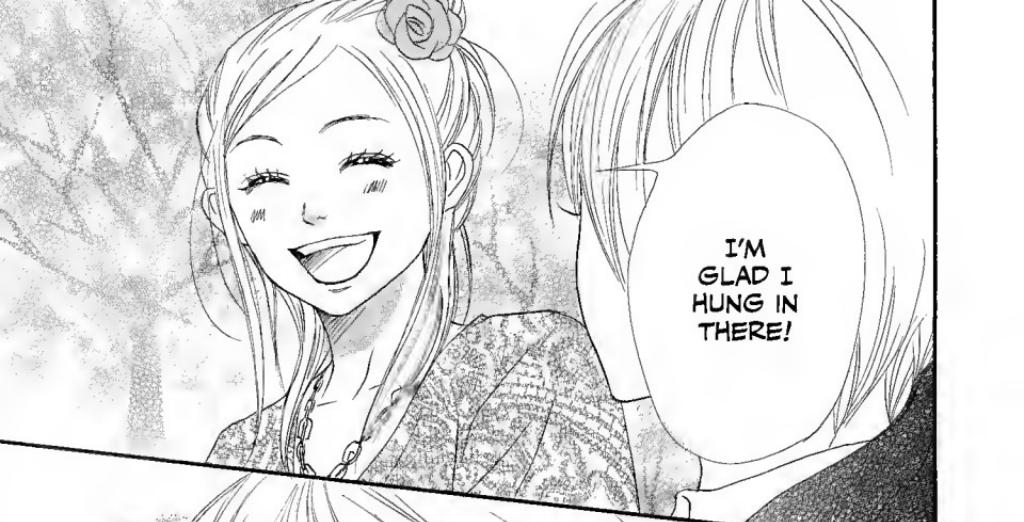
SHING



...I'D BE
GRADUATING
TODAY
WITH ALL
KINDS OF
REGRETS.

IF I'D
GIVEN
UP ON
YOU...





I'M
GLAD I
HUNG IN
THERE!



...WE
ENDED
UP HAVING
A LOT
OF FUN.



THANKS
TO YOU
HANGING
IN THERE...



DON'T
FLATTER
YOURSELF.

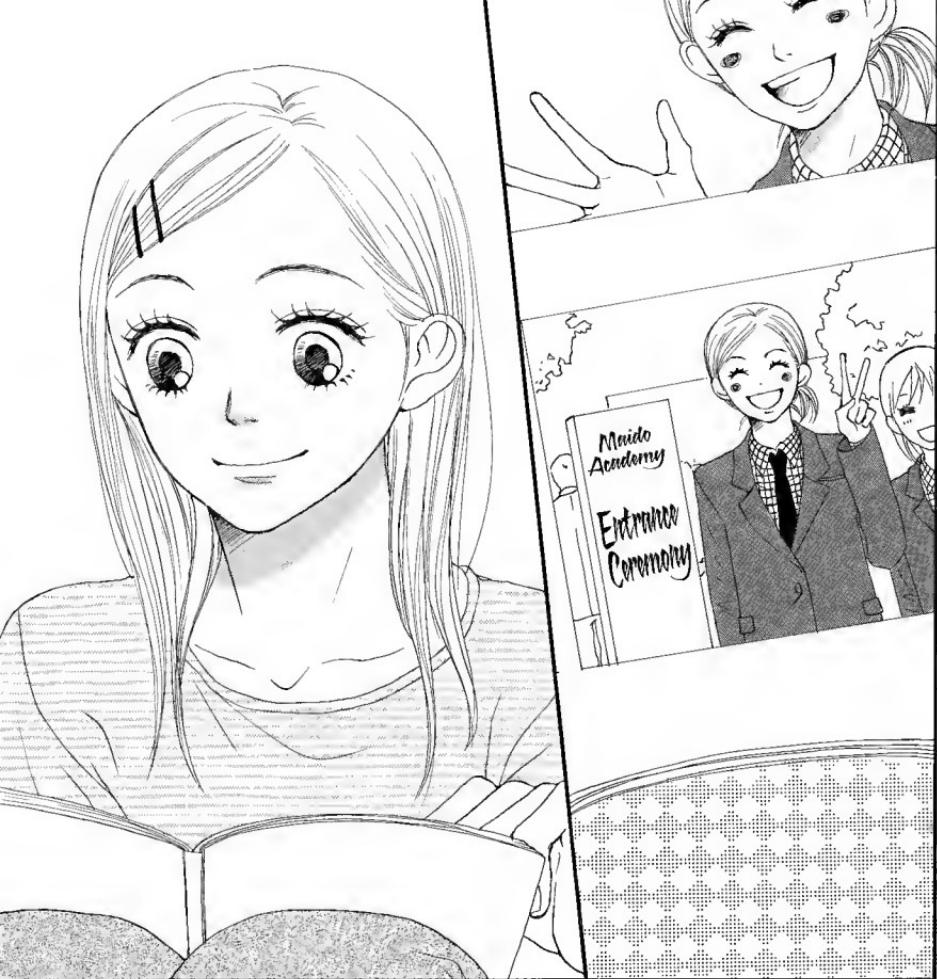
I
KNOW!
YOU
OWE IT
ALL TO
ME!



IT'S
FINALLY
GRADUA-
TION DAY.

TIME
TO
LEAVE
THE
PLACE...

...WHERE
I MET
ALL MY
FRIENDS...
AND ÔTANI.



CHAPTER 62



ALL
RIGHT.

GRADUATION'S
TOMORROW.
YOU'D BETTER
TURN IN EARLY.

THUP

IT
SEEMS
LONG,
BUT
STILL
TOO
SHORT.

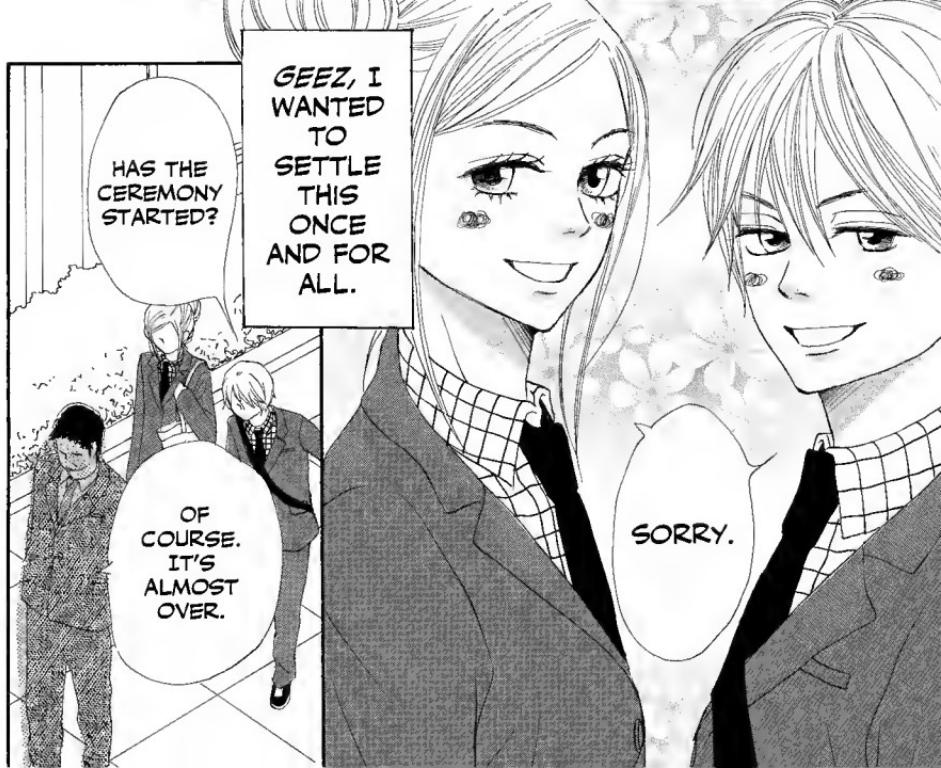
THREE
YEARS
HAVE
PASSED
SINCE I
STARTED
HIGH
SCHOOL.



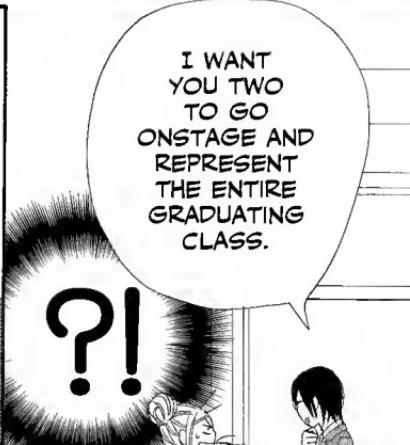


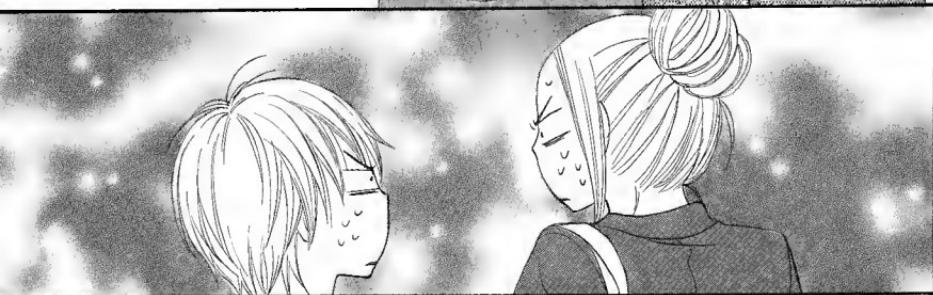












NOW YOUR
CLASS
REPRESEN-
TATIVES...

...RISA
KOIZUMI AND
ATSUSHI
ÔTANI, WILL
PRESENT
THE CLASS
MESSAGE.

WHAAT?

HEY,
IT'S
ÔTANI-
BÔSHI!

CRAM
IT!

GRRP

BRR

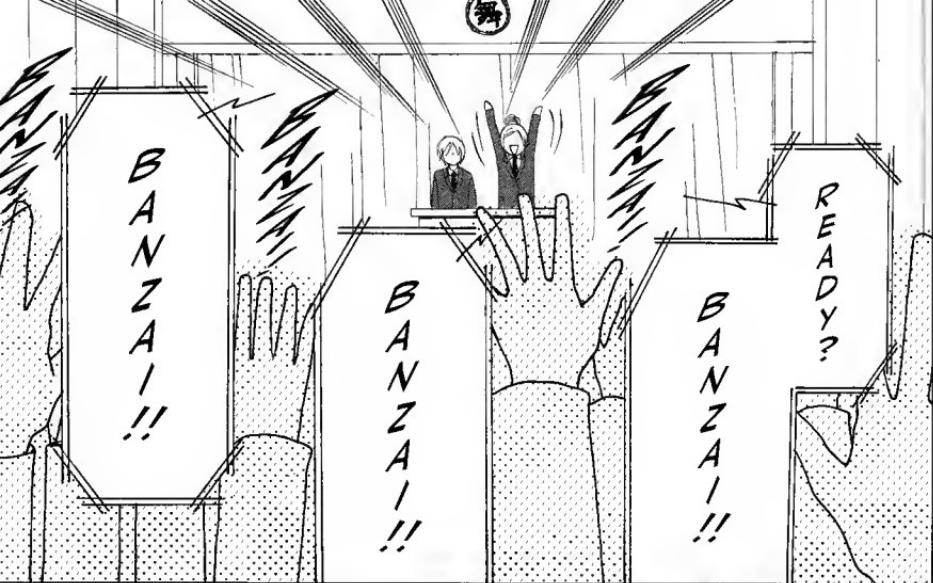
||

||

BRR







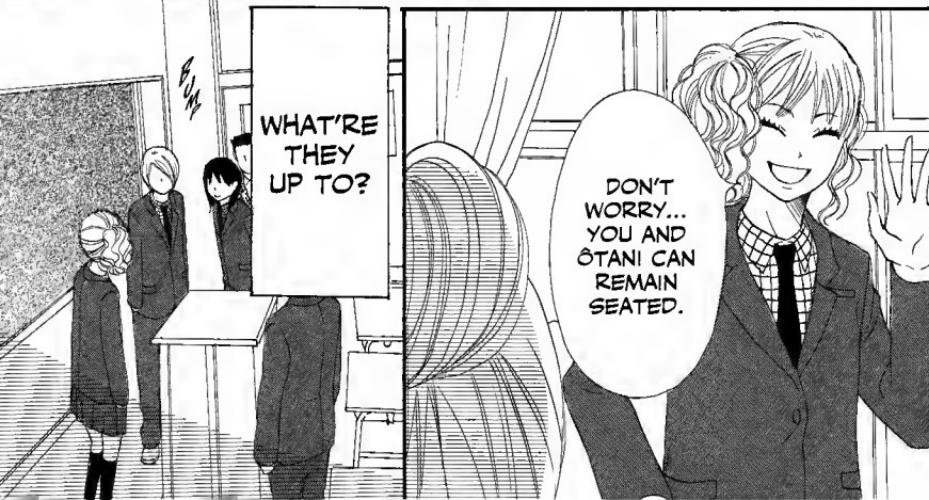


BUT
EVERYTHING
STILL SEEMS
THE SAME.
I DON'T FEEL
LIKE WE'VE
GRADUATED.

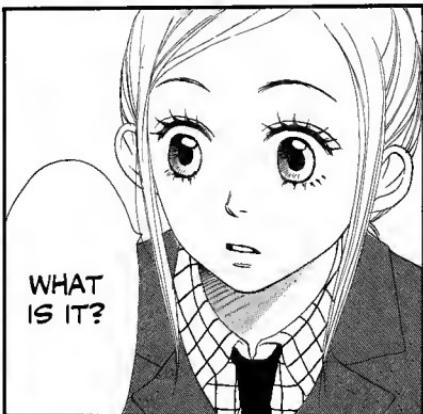
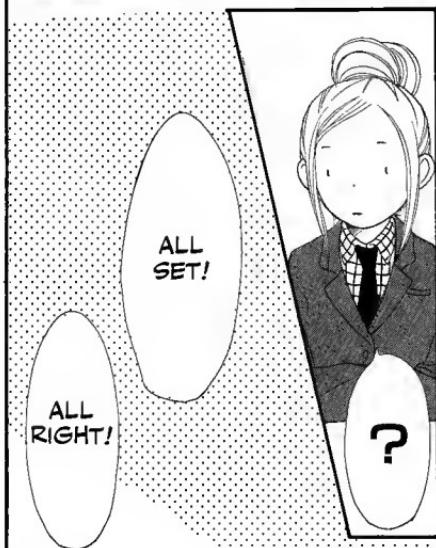
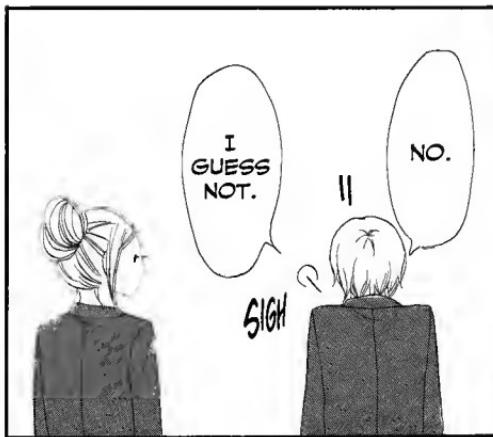


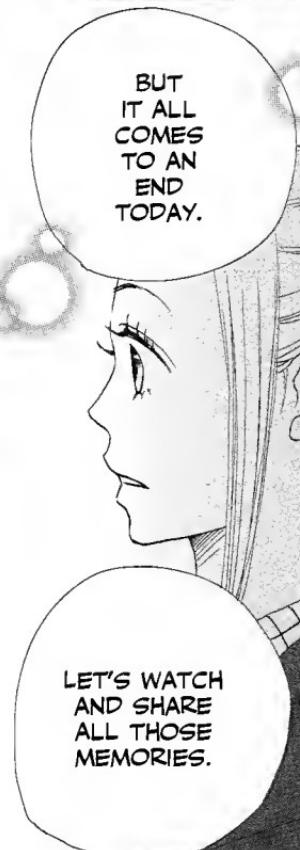
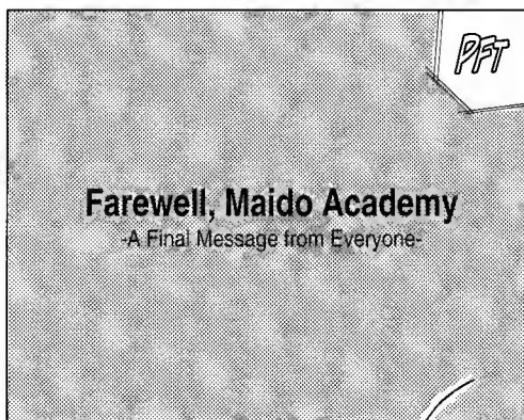
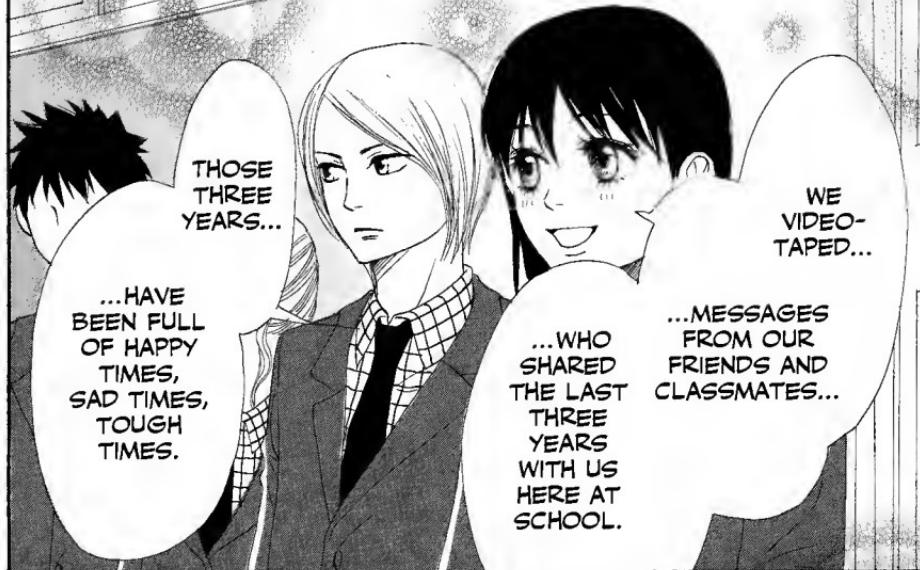
YOU'RE
RIGHT.



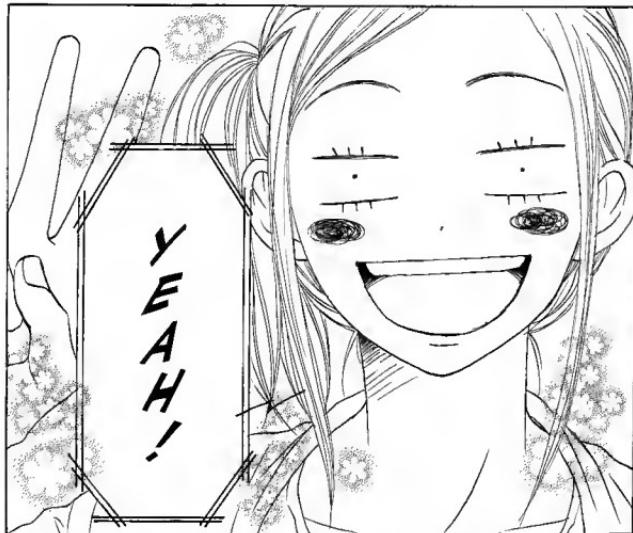




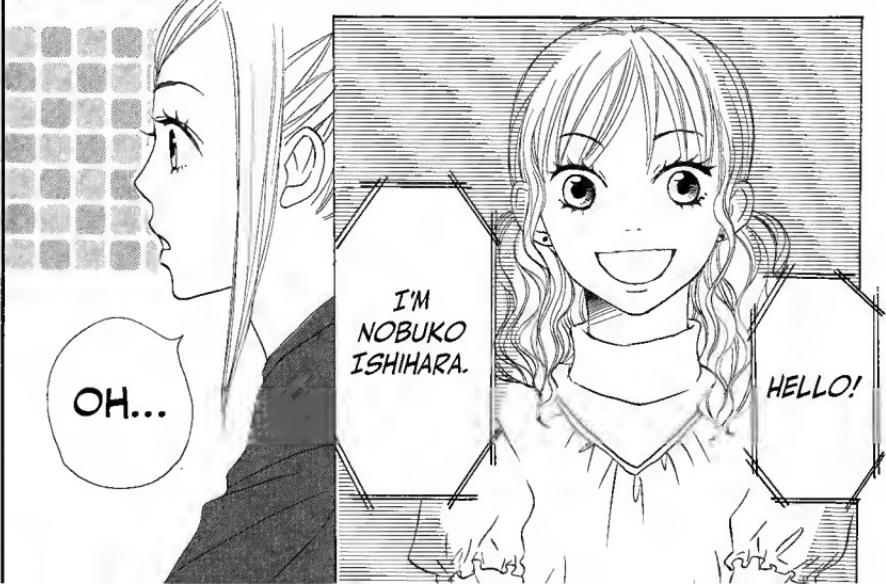
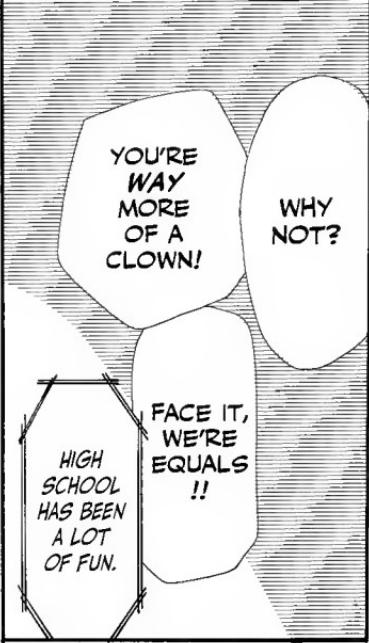












②

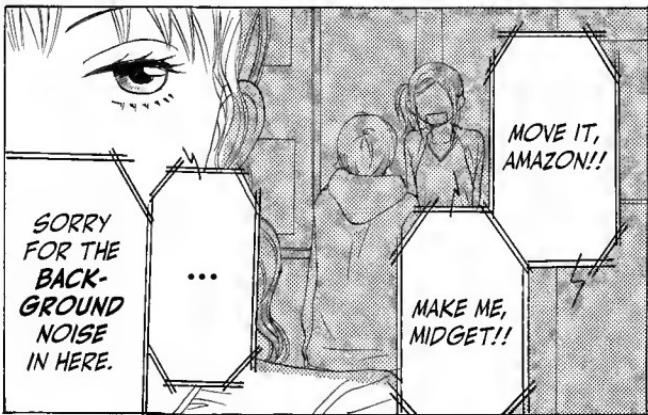
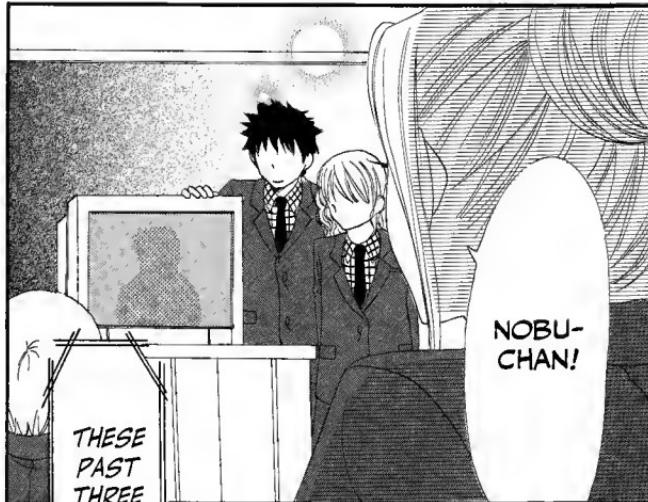
I came down with food poisoning. I couldn't do a thing for a whole week. I guess during the five years I drew this comic, I developed a kind of rhythm in my life. Without a deadline hanging over my head, somehow things went out of whack.

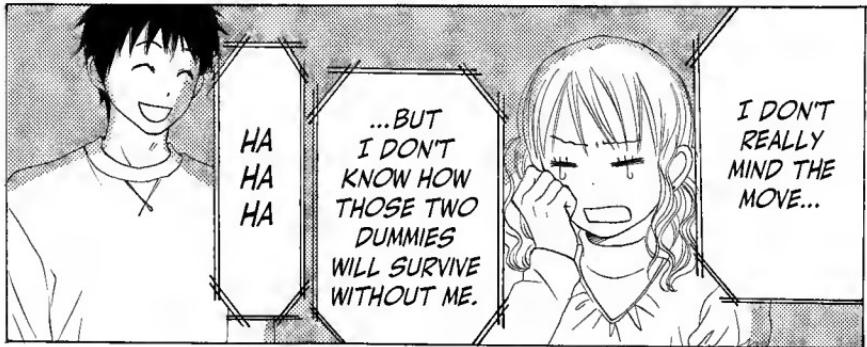
I never let myself rest. And I won't rest now. I'll keep drawing manga, so please keep believing in me!

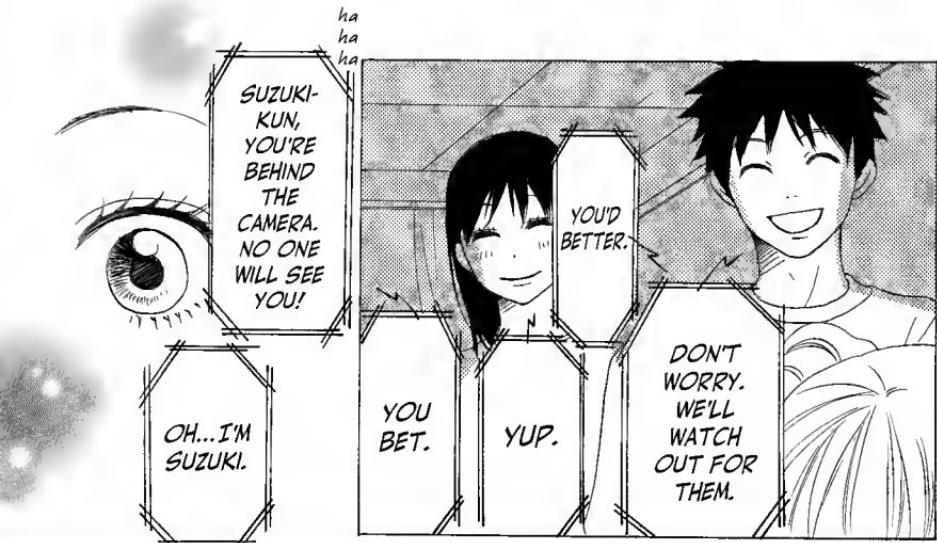
This will be the last note in this volume. I never write anything worthwhile, so I guess this is a good place to stop. Sorry! Am I depressing or what? Hee hee! Anyway...

I hope we can meet again in Love*Com volume 17.

Aya

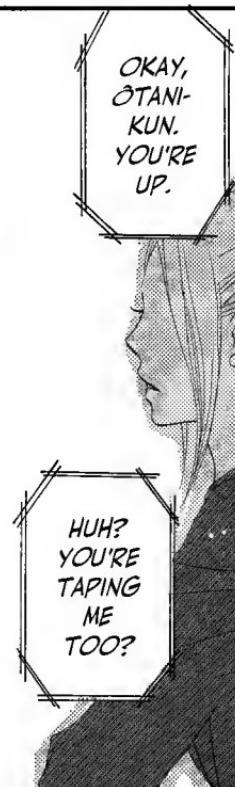






WE HUNG OUT EVERY DAY LIKE IT WAS THE NATURAL THING TO DO.

BUT TOMORROW IT WON'T BE THAT WAY ANYMORE.



LISTEN,
YOU MADE
KOIZUMI-SAN
DO ALL
THE WORK
FOR THREE
YEARS.

OH, COME
ON. IT'S THE
LAST DAY.
YOU DON'T
WANT TO SEND
HER JUST
ONE MESSAGE
FROM THE
HEART?

NO
THANKS!

ARE YOU
CRAZY?

"I
LOVE
YOU."

YEAH?
WHAT
DO YOU
EXPECT
ME TO
SAY?

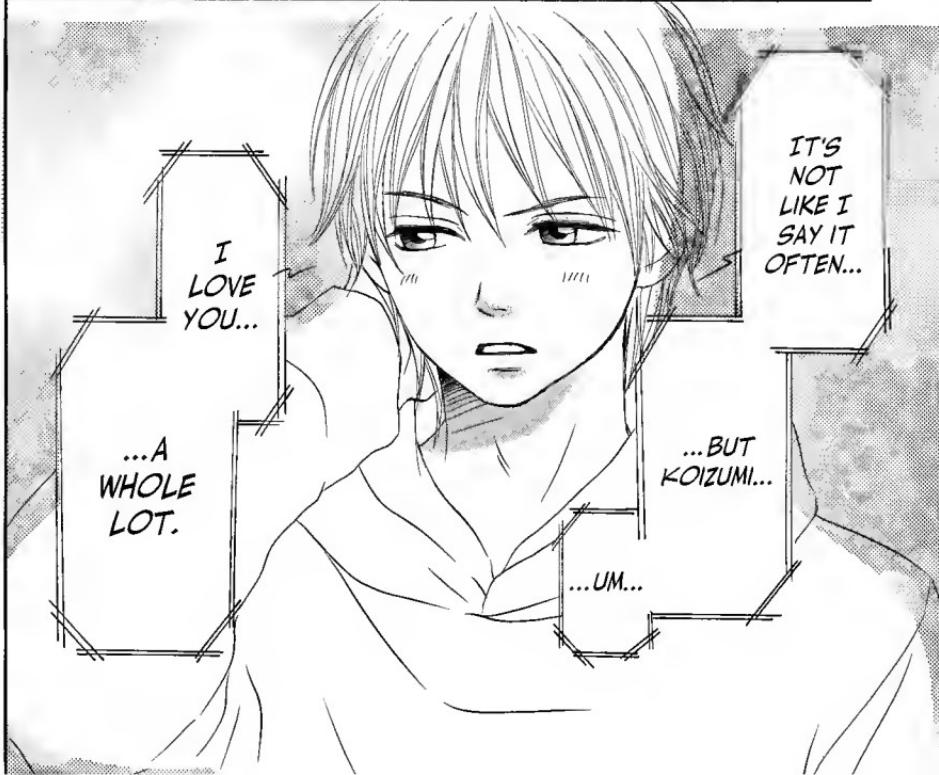
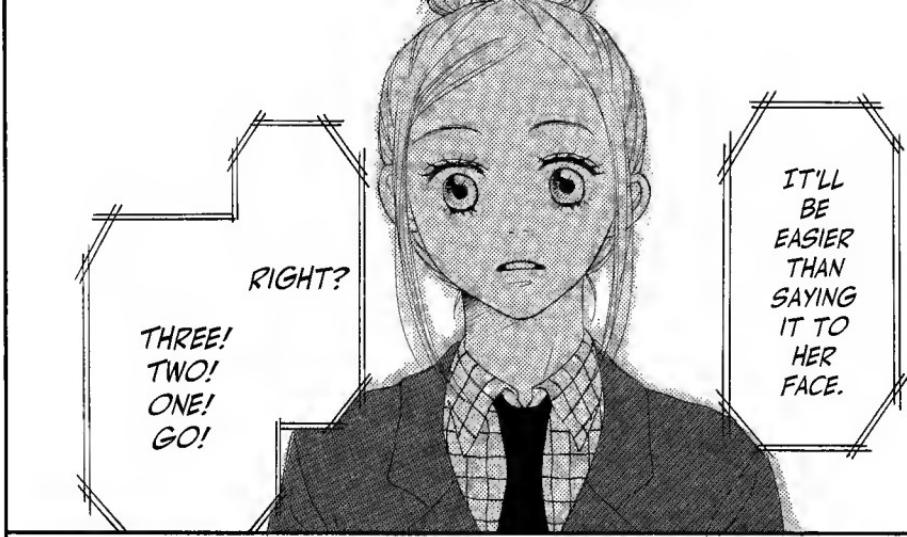
HUH?
YOU
DON'T
LIKE
HER?

WHY
WOULD
I...?

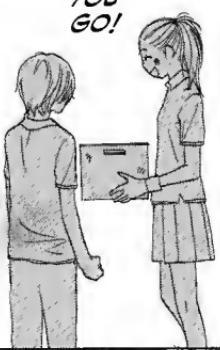
THEN HOW
ABOUT,
"I LIKE
YOU"?

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
TELLING
HER JUST
THIS ONCE?

I...
I DO,
BUT...



HERE
YOU
GO!



I'M
GLAD
I MET
YOU.

IS THAT
ENOUGH
?

THAT
WAS
NICE.
OKAY,
GOOD.

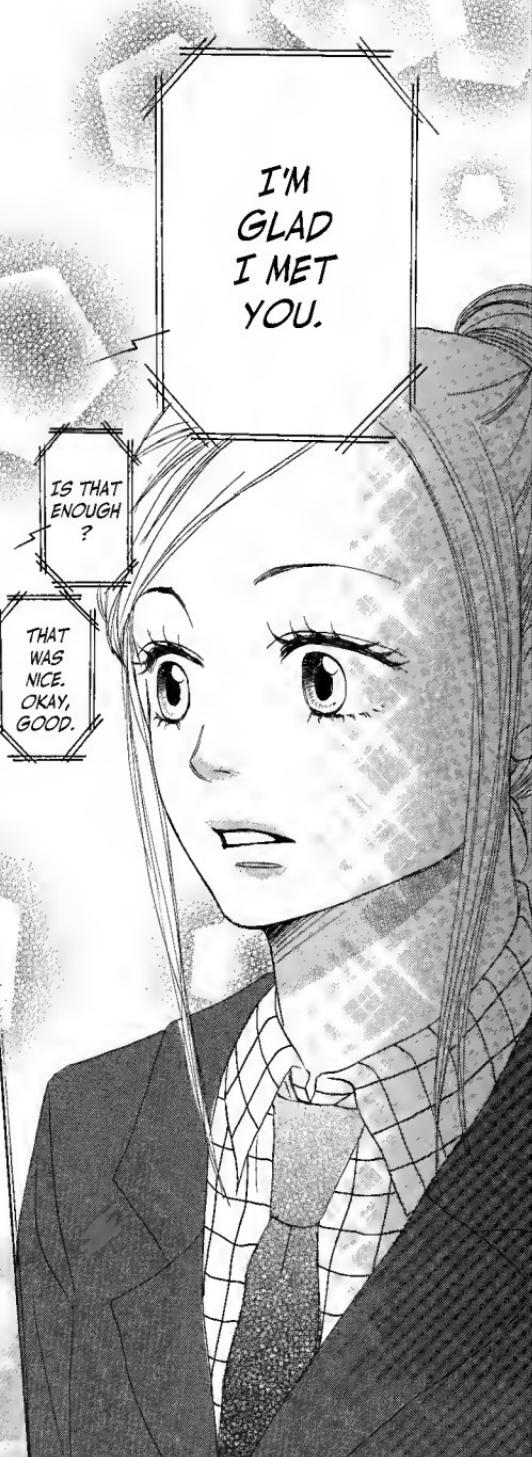
...YOU
MAKING
FUN
OF ME?

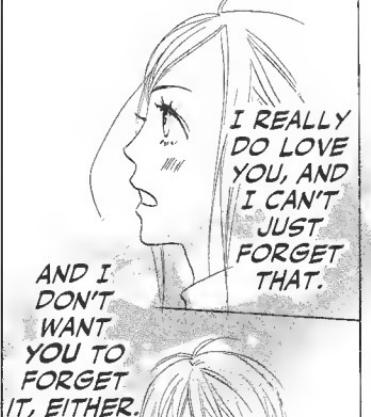


UMIBÔZU
?!

HE
TOTALLY
ROCKS!!

NO
WAY!
YOU
LIKE
HIM
TOO?





I CAN'T JUST SUDDENLY START GOING OUT WITH YOU OR THINKING OF YOU THAT WAY.

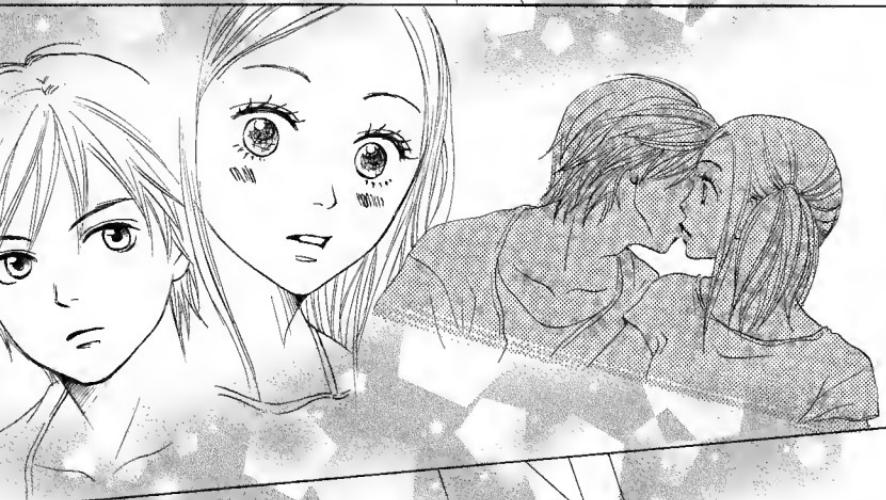


I GUESS MAYBE SHE'S NOT REALLY MY TYPE AFTER ALL.



OH,
ÔTANI...

DON'T
QUIT.



A
WHOLE
LOT.

I
LOVE
YOU
TOO.



I'M
REALLY
GLAD...

...ÔTANI
...

? I
MET
YOU.

...WHAT
?

I'M SO
HAPPY.

THANK
YOU.



...REMEMBERING HAPPY TIMES...

...AND SAD TIMES...

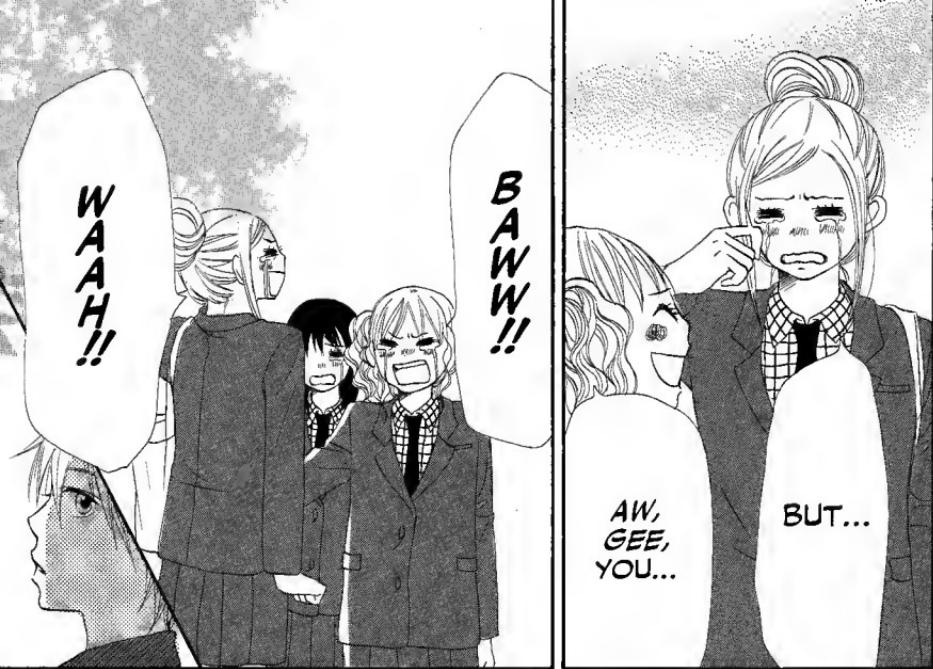
...WE ALL CRIED TOGETHER.

PROMISE YOU'LL COME HOME ONCE IN A WHILE!!

C'MON, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

OKAY.

WE'LL COME UP TO VISIT. ALL OF US!!





SO MANY MEMORIES

• • •



**GUYS,
LET'S
GO OUT
ONE
LAST
TIME!**

HEY...



OH
WELL.
LET'S
GO!

HOW
ABOUT
KARA-
OKE?

SOUNDS
GOOD!

BECUSE
SHE'S SO
MUCH
TALLER
THAN HIM?

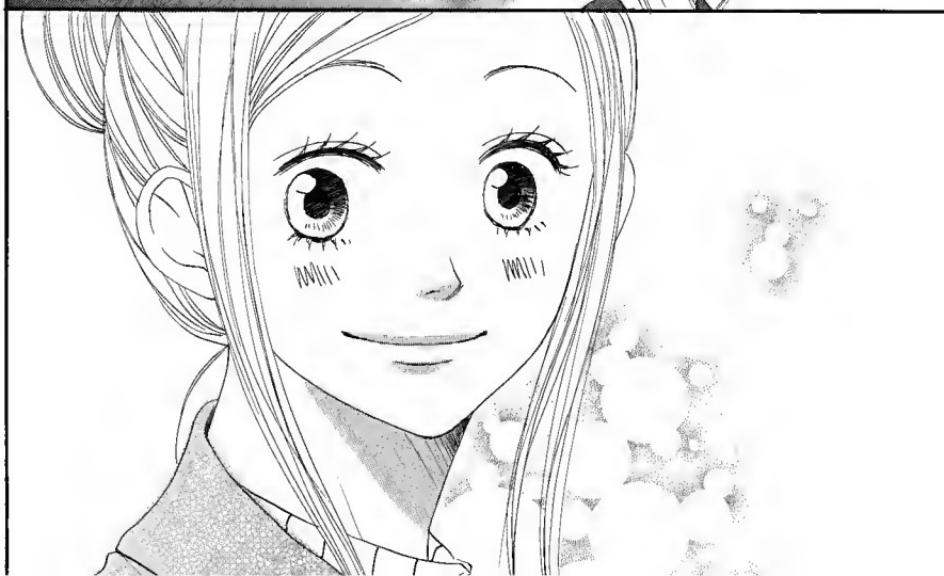
UH-
HUH.

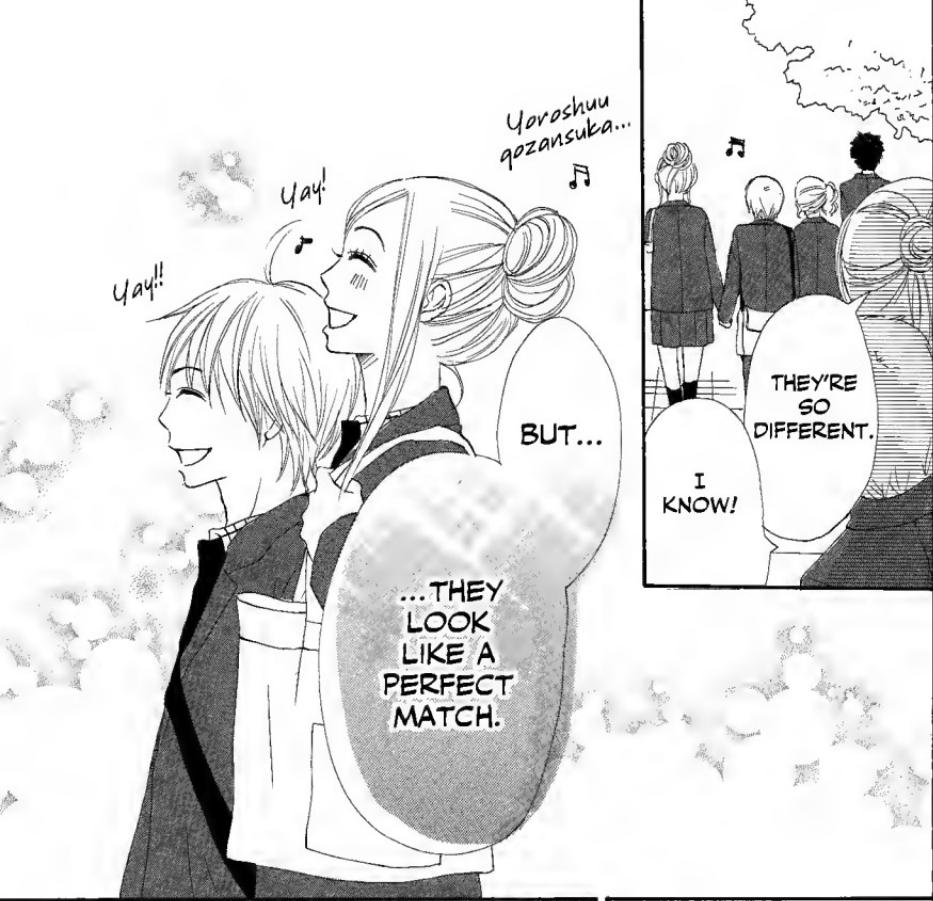
YUP.
PEOPLE
CALL
'EM ALL
HANSHIN-
KYOJIN.

SHE'S
THE ONE?
ÔTANI
SENPAI'S
GIRL-
FRIEND?

I
DUNNO.
AND HE
DOESN'T
MIND?

...







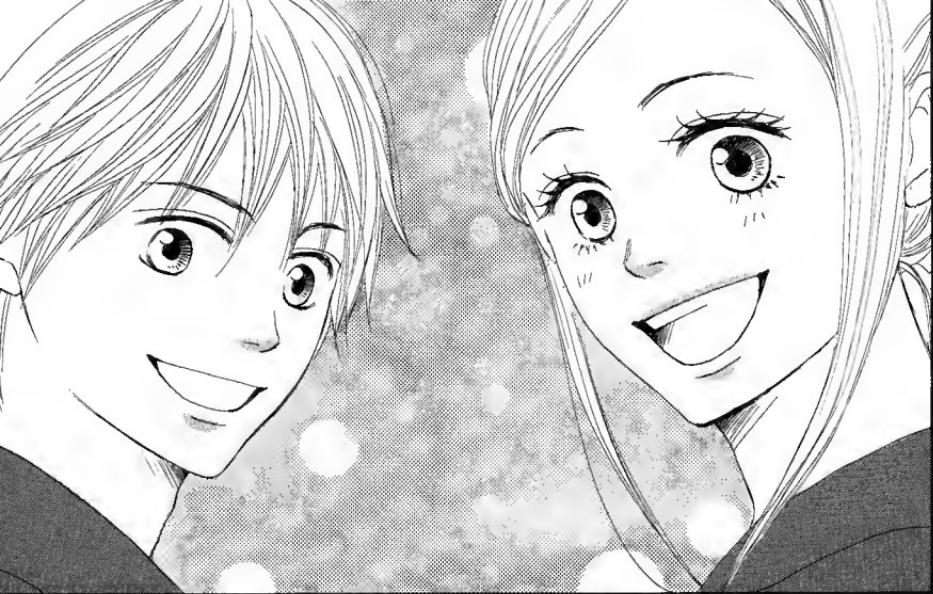
WE DID
LOTS
OF WILD
STUFF.

WE
CRIED
A LOT...

...AND
LAUGHED
A LOT.



EVERY
DAY
WAS A
LITTLE
CRAZY.



AND IT'LL
PROBABLY
STAY
THAT WAY.

BYE!



《THE END》



AYA NAKAHARA
PRESENTS

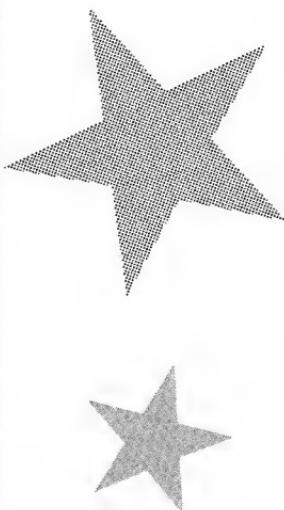
THE PLACE WHERE WE BELONG

FEATURING TEPPEI KOIKE



僕らの
居場所

The Place Where We Belong
WaT: The Teppei Koike Story



← The story of WaT begins on the next page. I didn't want to draw anything false about actual, living people, so I really studied up on WaT (or maybe just turned into a fangirl). I came away with the feeling that the appeal of WaT is partly in their songs, and partly in the obvious friendship and bonding you see when the two of them are together. I tried very hard to bring out that part of them in my artwork.

Teppei is the main character in this story. Wentz-kun allowed me to portray him as someone Teppei tries to emulate. Teppei always described his friend and partner as a very cool person, so I did my best to convey that impression. Did it work? I felt like this was the first time in my manga career that I drew a totally cool character. It was a nice change.

My main characters are usually pretty introverted, so it was also refreshing to portray someone like Teppei, who's always positive and outgoing. It's not like he explained every little feeling to me, so I was a bit nervous about adding dialogue and thoughts. But I tried to keep it close to the way I thought the real Teppei would feel.

This was my first attempt at a manga about a real person. It was a fun, exciting experience. I'm very grateful to the people who gave me this opportunity. Thank you very much.

To all the WaT fans out there, and to those who aren't familiar with WaT, I hope you enjoy this manga.



Voom

G

*It was a
two-and-a-half-hour
ride on the
bullet train
from my
hometown
of Osaka to
this place...*

...Tokyo.

Teppei,
what're
you doing?
We're
going!

Sorry!

*It's
gorgeous
...*

Right here,
from
this
moment
...



VROOM

sigh



But
on this
day...

I wonder
if I did
okay
in that
interview.

I know
my
photo
was
awful.

It
was so
nerve-
racking.

I was
totally
ignorant
about
the enter-
tainment
industry.

He
played
bass on
that TV
show.

He's the
same
age as
you and
loves
music.

What
show?

I finally got
to meet
some of the
other talent
from the
agency.

HUH
?

hee
hee

Oh, I
know
him.

Eiji
Wentz-
kun?

He's your
age, but he's
already got
years of
experience in
the enter-
tainment
world.

He
was on
*Tensai
Terebi-
kun*.

Huh?

*What'll
I do?
I'm so
nervous!*

Chinese Restaurant

Yikes.

*He's a
foreign-
er!!*

*Not
only that
...*

*He's
already
estab-
lished
in the
bus-
ness.*

*I'll say
"good-
night"!
Wait, no,
that's
when
you go
to bed!!*

*Can
I say
"hello"
if it's
night-
time?*

*Sh-
Should
I greet
him in
English?*

ER...

UM...



Konbanwa is "good evening" in Japanese.







Eiji
Wentz.

Eiji Wentz
has been added

He was
the first
friend
I'd made
in this
business...

...since
I'd
come
to
Tokyo.





I transferred to a school for the performing arts.

...so I decided to move to Tokyo and live there alone.

It was too rough to commute from Osaka to Tokyo for every job...

...made the ten-hour drive from Osaka with me.

On the day I moved, my dad, mom and kid brother...



Yeah, Koichi!!

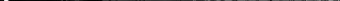
Go for it, Koi-Q!

My friends in Osaka came to see me off too.

Everybody here kind of... glows.







We're gonna be rock stars!

If we'd been classmates at the same school, I doubt we'd ever have become friends.

Ha ha ha ha

What Ei-chan and I had in common was our love of music.

Other than that, we were almost complete opposites.

You bet they are!

People are gonna listen to us!

It's chaos!

Ha ha!

Listen to the cheers!! It's a celebration!!

Oh no!

If we go out and jam somewhere, the fans will mob us!

Please, no shoving! One at a time!

We're gonna be a hit!

No question!





Okay.
How about
trying a
street
performance?

10K



Yeah!

I felt like
anything
was
possible.

JR 原宿駅
Jesse Harajuku Station

Please
enjoy our
cover of
"Misaki
Meguri."
Um...
Er...



O-Okay.
C-can
we start?

Well...
it's just
more
people
to enjoy
our music.

I
think
so.

S...
So
many
people...

Uh...
Uh-
huh.

10K





*There
were so
many
people
around...*

*...but
no one
stopped
to listen.*



*...isn't as
kind as
dreams.*

*Real
life...*







We wanted someone to get to know us and our love of music.



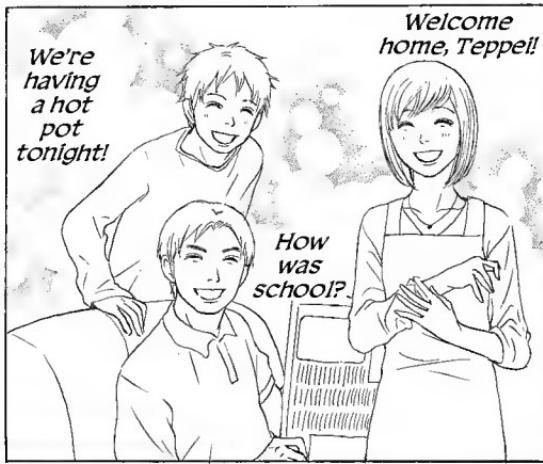














...THIS
WEEK'S
NEW
NUMBER
ONE
SINGLE!



But
it was
like she
was in
another
galaxy.

I was
supposed
to be in
the same
world
as that
singer
on TV.



So far
away.

*I had
to
work
harder.*



*I wanted
to be
part of
that
world.*



*Don't
give me
that!*

*Yes,
sir!*

*Are
you two
practicing?*





chirp
chirp

*Summer
vacation
came
at the
perfect
time.*

*Training
camp!*

This
feels
great.

Ahhh!
The air
feels so
fresh!



When you get settled in, come right back!

Ei-chan and I were gonna write our own songs.



What about the lyrics?

What does jogging have to do with becoming a musician?

T...to build stamina?

If we could get just a few people to listen...

Let's connect these two lines...

And this sounds good, right?

Uh-huh...

"Our thoughts..."

...even a little...

Yeah, let's leave it like that.

Really?

No, I like it.

Argh... something doesn't fit...

If we could get across our thoughts and feelings...

The Place Where We Belong



PLEASE LOOK AT ME AND
TALK TO US

PUT DOWN YOUR
HEAVY BURDEN

A PATH OPENS UP IN THE BLUE SKY

WHAT IS IT YOU
SEE RIGHT NOW?

DO OUR THOUGHTS AND
FEELINGS REACH YOU?

WE'LL ALWAYS BE
WAITING RIGHT HERE
PLEASE LOOK AT US,
PLEASE TALK TO US

WE'LL ALWAYS
BE SINGING HERE
IT'S HARD TO EXPRESS
EVERYTHING WE FEEL,
BUT WE'LL KEEP SINGING
RIGHT HERE

NO MATTER WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

THE PLACE WE BELONG WON'T CHANGE

*YOU'RE NOT ALONE WHEN YOU'RE FEELING DOWN
WE'LL PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE
AND WE'LL SING*

Good luck!

We'll come again to hear you!

Wow! That was great!





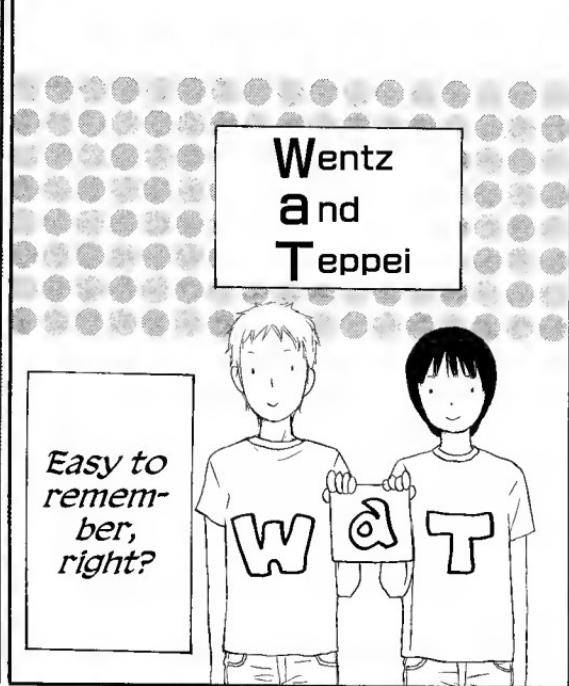
*Something
we could
share with
the world.*



*We
chose
a name
for our-
selves.*



*Over time,
a lot of
people
came to
see our
street
perform-
ances.*



*Easy to
remem-
ber,
right?*

**Wentz
and
Teppei**



*We
released
our own
indie
album.*



*...and
managed
to book
some live
concerts.*

WATER BOYS 2



GOKUSEN 2

*At the
same
time,
we got
some
work
in TV
dramas...*

Your major label debut has been set.



Before I knew it...

...three years had passed since I first met Ei-chan.

Con-gratula-tions!!

DRAGON SAKURA

Huh?

Isn't that great?

Say...

OUR MAJOR LABEL DEBUT, HUH?

HUH?

Hey, Ei-chan!

Did you hear?

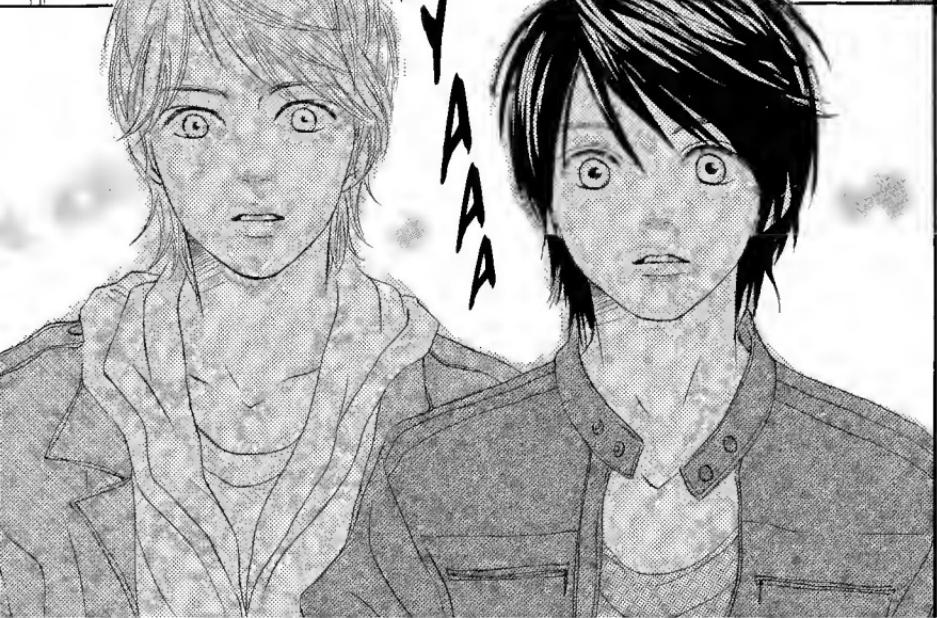
That's wonderful. Congratulations!!

Ah...

Oh...

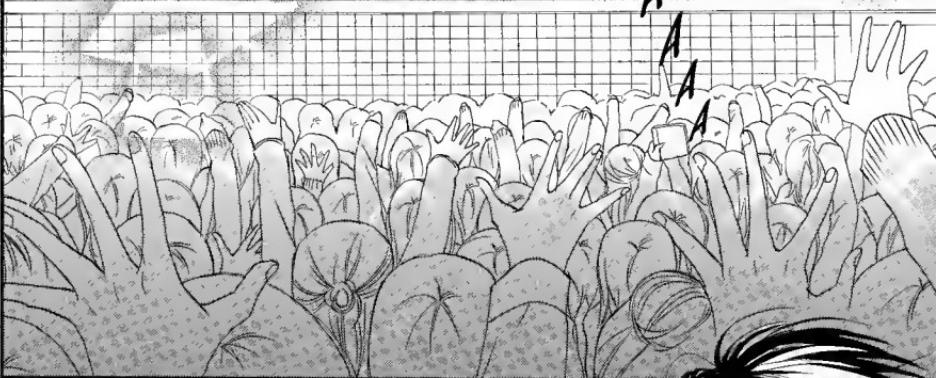








K
Y
A
A
A



E-
chan!

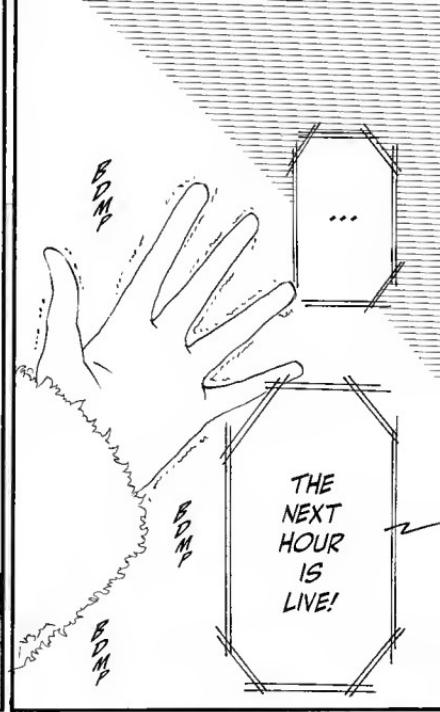
It's...
a celebra-
tion...

Teppei-
kun!

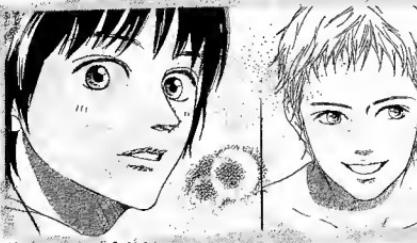
All these
people...?

Teppei-
kun!





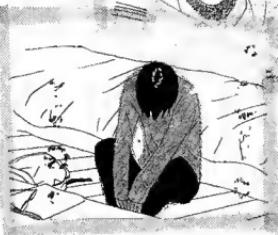




*I'm glad I'm with
Ei-chan.*



I'm glad we're WaT.



*I'm glad I'm
Teppei Koike.*







*This
is my
path
now.*

*And
I'll
keep
on...*

*...walk-
ing.*

《THE END》

glossary

Page 7, panel 2: Good luck cat

The kanji character on the cat is *fuku*, which means good fortune/happiness.

Page 10, panel 5: Issunbōshi

Issunbōshi is a Japanese folk tale about a tiny boy, similar to Tom Thumb. (*Issun* is a unit of measure that equals approximately one inch.) When he goes off to seek his fortune, *Issunbōshi* uses a soup bowl for a boat and chopsticks for oars.

Page 80, panel 1: Matsuri

The kanji on Abe's jacket means "festival."

Page 96, panel 1: All Hanshin and All Kyojin

All Hanshin-Kyojin were a comedy team with a short guy (Hanshin) and a tall guy (Kyojin). If you've been reading from volume 1, you already know this!

Page 133: Teppei Koike

Teppei Koike is a singer/actor who had his first leading role as Atsushi Ōtani in *Love★Com: The Movie*.

Page 137, panel 6: Tensai Terebi-kun

Tensai Terebi-kun was an NHK educational children's program. Eiji Wentz played bass guitar on the show when he was 10 years old.

Page 144, panel 4: Kobukuro-san

Kobukuro-san refers to the musical duo of Kentaro **Kobuchi** and Shunsuke **Kuroda**. The name of the band is derived in a similar way to WaT (Wentz and Teppei)!

Page 171, panel 4: Water Boys 2 and Gokusen 2

These are both titles of TV dramas.

Page 172, panel 2: Dragon Zakura

Dragon Zakura is a TV drama from 2005.



This volume marks the end of our main story. But they're letting me do a few extra features and side stories, so there'll be one more volume after this. And the anime comes out in the spring! So I'd love it if you could keep *Love★Com* in your heart a little while longer.

Aya Nakahara won the 2003 Shogakukan Manga Award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyoubi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

LOVE★COM VOL 16

Shojo Beat Manga Edition



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Editor/Carrie Shepherd

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Publisher/Hyoe Narita

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First published in Japan in 2001 by SHUEISHA Inc., Tokyo.

English translation rights arranged by SHUEISHA Inc.

"Bokurano Ibashi"

Written by Nooki Tonoka and WAT

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Printed in Canada

Published by VIZ Media, LLC

P.O. Box 77010

San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First printing, January 2010



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